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Inter-Arab Affairs

Strong 'Deterrent' Action Urged Against Serbs

MM2607155195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Jul 95 p 17

[Article by 'Abd al-Wahhab Badrakhan]

[FBIS Translated Text] The London Conference has used a strong tone against the Bosnian Serbs, but it seems that this tone was not strong enough to deter the Serbs and put a halt to the major changes they have been successful in imposing on the ground. The logic and effect of the logic of force is still in favor of the aggressors who are drawing up a new map for Bosnia-Herzegovina, a map which the "international mediators" will take into consideration when they resume their work, or rather when the Serbs permit them to talk again about peaceful solutions.

If the Serbs complete their current offensive, the mediators will do in the next stage what they have always done in the past, namely, hold negotiations with a view to persuading the Bosnian Muslims to accept the de facto state of affairs and convincing them that what the Serbs have already seized would be difficult to retrieve, particularly as wherever they go the Serbs expel the people, burn the land, consolidate their defenses, and persist in blackmailing the United Nations and the international forces.

Every time the representatives of the major powers meet to discuss the critical conditions in Bosnia, the same scenario is replayed and the distorted concept of this crisis is reiterated: To the major powers the problem is that they have soldiers there and they do not want them to be taken captives or be harmed, and not the sufferings the Bosnians are being subjected to and the fate that awaits Bosnia as a country and as a state. Every time, the meetings come to one conclusion: There is no way to protect the soldiers of the major powers and there is no way for them to intervene to settle the issue militarily in favor of a state which is being subjected to flagrant aggression. So the only remaining option is to leave the Serbs to complete their dirty work with the hope that they could manage to impose surrender on the Bosnians, and thus the major powers would free themselves of their worries and their forebodings.

The Bosnian crisis has harmed the entire international community, indeed, it has some time ago destroyed the effectiveness of the United Nations and the role that it was hoped it could play in setting up a formula for a post-cold war international system.

Under the old system, the United Nations agreed to yield to the will of the United States to accord special treatment to Israel and to protect its violations of international laws and traditions. But in the present stage — which is presumed to be a transitional period between the two systems — the Serbs seem to be the new Chosen People who can despise the international community and make a mockery of it.

Can anyone rationally believe that the world is unable to end the tragedy of a people? How could the "Free World," which built all its Cold War on the basis of the principles of freedom, democracy and the dignity of people, allow the Bosnian precedent to become the symbol of the next world system?

For the right thing to be done in Bosnia, a number of resolutions should be taken, though somewhat late. The most important of these resolutions are: The establishment of an Islamic state in Europe should not be prohibited as long as its people are Muslims, whose adherence to Islam might have grown stronger because of the war...; the arms embargo on the Bosnians was a gross error because it prevented a people from defending themselves as they faced the main thrust of the Serbian aggression, so this embargo should be lifted...; and the halting of the current international scandal in Bosnia demands an extremely clear action, namely, the defence of the Bosnians despite all the...sacrifices this entails. [all ellipses as published]

As to the talk of the withdrawal of the international forces, or the threat of their withdrawal or the contemplation of this withdrawal as a solution for the impasse in which the major powers find themselves, it is an inappropriate abdication [of responsibility]. This is because the challenge which the salvation of Bosnia, as a state and as a people, poses is too big to be evaded by the mere explanation of positions in terms of the size of interests.

The present moment might be very appropriate for embarking on a deterrent action against the Serbs. Hesitation will only squander this opportunity and give the Serbs the final impression that they have been given the green light by the major powers to pursue their plans.

League Committee To Prepare Arab Pact of Honor

NC3007155095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 30 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 30 Jul (MENA)—The Lebanese and Comoros Islands' representatives to the Arab League have asked the League secretariat general that they join the preparatory committee charged with preparing an Arab pact of honor. The committee will resume its meetings tomorrow under Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to discuss the principles of the pact's charter.

The preparatory committee, which includes representatives from 13 Arab states in addition to the Arab League, will submit its report to the Arab League Council at its next session on 20 September. The new pact aims to redraft inter-Arab relations on the basis of new principles, regulations, and a working program different from previous charters in essence and priority.

[In a related report, Paris AFP in English at 1145 GMT on 30 July adds the following: "A League committee, which has already met twice since early June, will examine a draft of the pact, first proposed by President Husni Mubarak in March, Egypt's representative to the organisation said.

["Mahmud Murtada said the committee had agreed on a name, "Pact of Honor for Security and Arab Cooperation," and that its aim was to mend the Arab rift caused by Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. "Egypt has also proposed a "Program for Joint Arab Action" to ensure implementation of the pact, the official said.

["The draft pledge, received by AFP, 'forbids the use or threat of force' to solve disputes between Arab nations and commits them to respect each others' 'sovereignty, unity and ruling regime.' "It also commits Arab countries 'to immediately adopt all steps and to use all means available to them, including armed force, to repel an aggression' by one League member against another.

["The members would also vow to 'stand up to terrorism and abstain from aiding terrorist elements and acts, directly or indirectly.'

["The League committee on the pledge includes representatives from Egypt, Jordan, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq and Kuwait. Qatar, Libya, Morocco and the Palestinians joined the last session on July 2."]

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 25 Jul

NC3007065895

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 25 July edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Scholars, Writers Comment on Plight of Bosnian Muslims
2. 'AQIDATI Convoy Visits Alexandria Youth Camp

SCHOLARS, WRITERS COMMENT ON PLIGHT OF BOSNIAN MUSLIMS

Serbian attacks against the safe areas in Bosnia and the plight of Muslims there feature prominently in this issue of 'AQIDATI. A 600-word report on pages 1 and 20 notes that religious and political scholars have welcomed the Islamic Contact Group's decision to declare the UN arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina void. Prominent religious scholar Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali describes the decision as positive and urges the Islamic countries to act on it quickly, especially after the West's "conspiracy" to abandon the Muslims had been exposed. He adds: "The Organization of Islamic Conference should have established an Islamic army to deter Serbian aggression."

A 600-word column by Basyuni al-Halawani on page 6 lashes out at UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali for his "shameful" stand on Bosnia. He adds: "If I were in Butrus-Ghali's place, I would have resigned immediately in protest of the great crime that is being committed against the Muslims in Bosnia." Noting that the UN has idly watched Serbian attacks, al-Halawani adds: "We were waiting for Butrus-Ghali to take a historic stand. He was raised in Islamic Egypt and the Muslim Egyptians gave him the opportunity to reach his UN position." This is particularly true since Butrus- Ghali lived and was educated in Egypt under the tolerance of Muslims and the spirit of amity that brings together Muslims and Christians in Egypt, he adds.

A 500-word column by Majdi Salim on page 8 describes the Serbian crimes against Muslims in Bosnia as worse than the Nazi crimes in Europe and the U.S. crime of using nuclear weapons against Japan. He dismisses Butrus-Ghali's claim that a negotiated settlement is the only way to end the conflict and notes that the Serbs only know the language of weapons.

'Adil Dayf writes a 400-word column on page 20 denouncing the "international conspiracy" against everything Islamic. He notes that Muslims are asking themselves what to do in the face of this conspiracy, which is not just directed against Bosnia, Chechnya, and the Arab region, but against all Muslims. He suggests several ways for Muslims to confront this conspiracy, such as boycotting the goods of countries that carry out or support aggression against Muslims, denying the aggressors and their supporters access to the Muslims' natural resources, pressuring to lift the arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslims, warning the aggressors that an Islamic deterrent force could be set up to rescue Muslims worldwide, and providing support for the besieged Muslims in Bosnia, Chechnya, Palestine, etc.

In a 700-word column on pages 24 and 23, chief editor al-Sayyid argues that the tragedy of the Bosnian Muslims proves that the so- called "world conscience" is an opportunistic one, not motivated by principles or human rights, but by self-interests. These events also prove that law of "might is right" governs international relations. He points out that following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the world opposed Saddam Husayn, who broke the rules and threatened the West's interests. However, Bosnia is different, he adds. Bosnia has no raw materials and does not provide a wide market for western products. In addition, the Serbs do not want Muslim neighbors. Furthermore, the United States is not ready to see Americans die there without a "tangible" return, something that the U.S. Administration could give Americans, who only care about their "personal welfare." He urges the Islamic nation to make good on their decision to send weapons and money to the Bosnian people.

'AQIDATI CONVOY VISITS ALEXANDRIA YOUTH CAMP

A 2,000-word report on pages 14 and 15 describes the 'AQIDATI convoy of ulema's visit to the Abu Qir student camp in Alexandria. In response to a student's question on the case of Dr. Nasr Abu-Zayd, a Cairo University professor whom a court has separated from his wife on grounds of apostasy; Shaykh Salah Nassar, preacher of 'Umar Ibn-al-Khattab Mosque in Heliopolis, replies that from the religious point of view, Dr. Abu-Zayd's case is a public case, not a personal one. He points out that a person cannot be declared apostate unless he deliberately renounces belief in a religious text. Proof of this, he adds, is that during his time Caliph Abu-Bakr fought some Muslims who refused to pay alms, which is one of God's orders. Referring to Abu-Zayd, he adds: "This man says the maker of the universe, who is God, is like a watchmaker; after making it, he abandons it." He points out that this runs contrary to the law of reward and punishment. Shaykh Nassar adds that Abu- Zayd's objection to women's share under the Islamic inheritance law—receiving half the men's share—is a denial of a heavenly legislation.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 28 Jul

NC0108165295

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 28 July edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. MB Guide Denies AL-AHRAM's Report on Splits, Ousting
2. Increased Violence in South Noted
3. Government Bans Conference on Support for Bosnia
4. MB Members Arrested To Prevent Participation in Elections
5. Government's Hostility Toward Sudan Criticized
6. Human Rights Group Demands Release of Detained Lawyers
7. Extension Of Detention of 5 MB Leaders To Be Reviewed
8. Mubarak Urged To Release Detained Asyut University Teacher

MB GUIDE DENIES AL-AHRAM'S REPORT ON SPLITS, OUSTING

A 169-word item on pages 1 and 8 cites a statement by Mus[illegible]therhood [MB] general guide Hamid Abu-al-Nasr denying an AL-AHRAM report on splits in the organization and on his ousting.

INCREASED VIOLENCE IN SOUTH NOTED

An unattributed 212-word report on page 1 details some of the violent clashes in Upper Egypt between gunmen and the security organs. The report says a common factor in all these clashes is the presence of civilians in police vehicles.

GOVERNMENT BANS CONFERENCE ON SUPPORT FOR BOSNIA

An unattributed 200-word report on page 1 says that the government has refused to allow a conference to be held in al-Azhar in support of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. It notes that "security forces commanders in the Interior Ministry asked the al-Azhar 'Ulema Front to cancel the conference, which was due to be held after Friday prayers on 28 July." After reviewing the preparations for the conference, the report adds that the committee in charge of it considered making an appeal to "the government to cancel the military order banning the collection of contributions" and also another appeal to the information minister to devote more space in the media to cover the news on Bosnia and to help collect the contributions.

MB MEMBERS ARRESTED TO PREVENT PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

A 1,500-word report by Khalid Yunus on page 2 details the interrogation of a number of MB members arrested earlier in the week. The report starts by saying that the interrogation of the detainees shows that the "reason for this campaign is the MB's preparations to participate in the People's Assembly elections scheduled to be held in November, because the government party fears having Islamist candidates in any elections, particularly in the wake of the overwhelming victories they have scored. The detained brothers made this point during the investigations and said that the security organs' objective in detaining them is to prevent them from being nominated in the forthcoming People's Assembly elections and from preparing for it."

The report then gives details about the interrogation of a number of detainees. Citing the case of Engineer Muhammad al-'Arawi, member of the Higher Council of the Engineers Association, the report says that he was asked about his participation in a meeting of the MB's Shura Council on 19 January which discussed the MB's participation in the upcoming People's Assembly election, the allocation of funds for this campaign, and the MB participation in the Teachers Association elections. Engineer al-'Arawi denied any participation.

Another detained MB member, Muhammad Husayn 'Isa, said that he was arrested because he was a winning candidate in the 1987 People's Assembly elections. According to the report, several of those arrested were asked about old cases going back to the 1956 MB attempt to assassinate the then President 'Abd-al-Nasir, in which they were involved and imprisoned as a result. It adds that a number of the detainees refused to answer questions until the authorities investigate the way they were arrested in violation of the law. The report notes that most of the evidence the interrogators showed the detainees "involves books sold openly on the market about Bosnia, Palestine, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and dealing with morals, prayers, and jurisprudence, as well as tapes on the same issues." This, it adds, "shows that the main and only charge in this case is membership in a secret and illegal organization that aims to flout the Constitution and laws and prevent the public authorities from doing their work and joining an illegal party."

In conclusion, the report says that the detainees' lawyers demanded the release of their clients and stressed that the "detainees were acting through official bodies that operate publicly and overtly."

GOVERNMENT'S HOSTILITY TOWARD SUDAN CRITICIZED

A 5,000-word article by 'Adil Husayn on page 5 deals with two principal issues. The first is President Mubarak's speech on the anniversary of the 23 July 1952 revolution. Husayn compares the situation that prevailed before the revolution and the one prevailing now and argues that the current regime has done away with all the gains and achievements of that revolution. The rest of the article is devoted to arguing Sudan's case and rebutting the accusations being leveled against it. Husayn criticizes the government's refusal to accept Arab mediation to resolve the crisis in relations and the continued attacks on Sudan despite the lack of evidence linking Sudanese officials to the Addis Ababa attack. He asks "why this insistence on hostility and on bringing down the regime in Sudan, a stand that is similar only to those of the United States and Israel?"

Husayn then goes on at length about the role of Sudan in central and east Africa and how the regime's example is being followed by other countries. Alleging that there have been pressures and attempts to sow sedition in Sudan on the pretext that the "Sudanese leaders' African policies involve killing people and arming Muslim terrorists in the African countries (and even all over the world, according to them)", the writer adds: "The fact is that it is impractical for the Sudanese Government for do such a thing (even if wants to) because Sudan is not a superpower with bottomless resources of money and arms that would enable it to wage a war all over Africa and the Arab world. Such talk is drivel."

Husayn adds: "Yes, there are many unfair situations in many African countries stemming from the era of European colonialism; and these situations are now engendering an Islamic awakening that is a noble popular action, not a plot managed by a certain party. Islam does exist in most African countries and imperialism plans to contain it and isolate its followers." He then lists the virtues of Sudanese leaders 'Umar al-Bashir and Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, explains how Islam is being properly taught and practiced and how non-Muslims respect the Muslims and their good work.

Returning to his question about this hostility toward Sudan, Husayn says: "If the reason for this hostility is Sudan's backing for terrorism, then we are with you if this proves to be true. But if it is not proved, then this means that Sudan is following the rules of Islam. In this case, the whole Egyptian people will oppose you, o men of power. This people cannot accept subservience to the U.S.-Israeli strategy of fighting Islam in all the Arab countries and in Africa. The government's submission to this hostile strategy definitely explains in part this hostile stand toward the Sudanese Government, but it is not the full explanation, since there must be other reasons that have led to the deterioration in relations."

HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP DEMANDS RELEASE OF DETAINED LAWYERS

An unattributed 200-word report on page 8 cites a statement issued by the Egyptian Human Rights Committee demanding the release of detained lawyers Mansur Ahmad Mansur, Ahmad Muhammad 'Abdallah, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Raziq Farghali, Ramadan Abu-al-Hasan, Ahmad Mus'ad Subh, and Mahmud Ahmad al-Ghatrifi.

EXTENSION OF DETENTION OF 5 MB LEADERS TO BE REVIEWED

An unattributed 60-word report on the same page says that the Higher State Security Prosecution Office will review on Saturday, 29 July, whether to extend the detention of the following recently arrested five MB leaders: Hasan al-Jamal, Muhammad Muhsin Suwaydan, Dr. 'Ali al-Day, 'Ashur Sulayman, and 'Isa 'Abd-al-'Alim.

MUBARAK URGED TO RELEASE DETAINED ASYUT UNIVERSITY TEACHER

A 100-word report by Dawud Hasan on page 8 says that the teachers clubs in Cairo and the club of the Asyut University teaching staff have appealed to President Mubarak to release Dr. Muhammad Habib, chairman of the Asyut University teaching staff club, who was arrested last week. The appeal says that Dr. Habib is known for his moderation and popularity and "has condemned violence and all forms of terrorism in his writing and statements."

Algeria

Security Services Identify Suspect in Paris Blast

LD0208164795 Paris LCI Television in French 1600 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Some news just in: The Algerian intelligence services say they have identified one of the three persons thought to be important witnesses and whose Photofit pictures were released last Sunday [30 July] by the French police. This is, of course, in connection with the investigation into the bomb attack on the St. Michel metro station. Photographs of the person as a youth have been sent in order to help back up this identification, according to our sources. However, while examining this information with interest, the French police remain cautious for the moment. We will return to this subject in our next bulletin.

Three Car Bombings Reported in Algiers

LD0308095595 Paris France-2 Teletext in French 1506 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At least one person was killed and dozens were injured in the explosion of three car bombs near Algiers over the last two days, the Algerian press announced today.

On Tuesday [1 August] morning one person was killed and some 30 others injured in an attack in Ouled Moussa, south of Algiers, according to the daily 'El-Khabar'.

Moreover, 13 Islamists were killed in skirmishes with the security forces on Sunday night in Algiers, according to 'El-Watan'.

Egypt

Full Statement on Arrest of Mubarak's Attackers

EA0208135095 Addis Ababa Radio Ethiopia Network in Amharic 1730 GMT 1 Aug 95

["Text" of Ethiopian Interior Ministry statement on the assassination attempt on President Husni Mubarak; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The police and the security forces of the transitional government of Ethiopia and patriotic Ethiopians have been engaged in an effort to hunt down and apprehend the extremist terrorists — those who were killed and those who tried to flee after the attempt to assassinate the Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the morning of 26 June 1995.

The efforts made and the cooperation received from Addis Ababa and the other regions to apprehend the terrorists have contributed to the results achieved. [passage omitted]

It was known that two members of the group remained outside Ethiopia to plan and coordinate the operation, while the remaining nine were given the task of entering our country and carrying out the operation. Of the nine terrorists who were deployed in our country, five were killed, three others were arrested and only one managed to escape. The Egyptian terrorists who took part in the planning, coordination, and implementation of the whole operation had been using the following assumed names:

1. Umar al-Masri, real name Sharif 'Abd-al-Rahman Tawfiq al-Madani, nationality Egyptian.
2. Siraj or Fathi, real name Husayn Ahmad Shahid Ali, nationality Egyptian.
3. Faysal, real name Sawfat Hasan 'Abd-al-Qani Atiq, nationality Egyptian.
4. Khalifah, real name al-Arab Sadiq Hafiz Muhammad, nationality Egyptian.
5. Hamzah, entered our country with the name: 'Abd-al-Hadi Muhammad, nationality Egyptian.
6. Muhammad, entered our country with the name: 'Abd-al-Quddus al-Qadi, nationality Egyptian.
7. Al-Turki, real name Mustafa 'Abd-al-Aziz Muhammad, nationality Egyptian.
8. Yasin, real name 'Abd-al-Karim al-Naji 'Abd-al-Radi Ahmad, nationality Egyptian.
9. (Ihab), real name Muhammad 'Abd-al-Radi Khalil, nationality Egyptian. [passage omitted]

The investigation team — which had been carrying out its duties based on the information received between the day of the assassination attempt and 28 June — on 1 July confronted the terrorists who had escaped arrest earlier. They ["the terrorists"] resisted arrest, fired at our security forces and were killed in the shoot out. Although it continued, the first stage of the investigation into the planning and execution of the assassination attempt had been brought to conclusion.

One of the terrorists who was killed on 1 July — who was identified as the head of the operation, who escaped on the day of the assassination attempt and is known as Sharif 'Abd-al-Rahman, had considerable experience, having played a part in terrorist acts in a number of countries and was the leader of the operation here in Ethiopia in which he led eight other terrorists. He was killed, along with 'Abd Hadi Muhammad and Muhammad 'Abd-al-radi, who were wounded by our security forces during the assassination attempt and who were at the time recuperating from their wounds.

'Abd-al-Karim al-Naji, al-Arab Sadiq and Safwat Hasan are currently in police custody and preparations to bring them to justice are well under way. The terrorist who escaped after taking part in the operation has been identified as Fathi or Siraj. His real name is Husayn Ahmad shaykh Ali, but he has been referred to as Siraj Muhammad Husayn in reports. This person along with Safwit Hasan, who is currently in custody, was deployed to provide logistical support, such as arranging house and car rentals.

The two terrorists who had been coordinating the assassination from abroad were:

1. Mustafa Hamzah, alias Ibrahim, who is a member of the Jama'at al-Islamiyyah and was the person who planned, supervised and monitored the assassination attempt here in Addis Ababa.

2. Izzat Yasin, a deputy to Mustafa Hamzah, who was coordinating and monitored the assassination attempt.

The Ethiopian Government is making all the necessary efforts to bring those two masterminds of the whole operation, as well as the man who escaped from Ethiopia, to justice.

Although we had responsibilities to inform our people of the progress of the investigations carried out by the law enforcement and security forces, we were obliged not to disclose all the details, especially the arrest of the three terrorists who are currently in custody. We wish to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the people, who refrained from demanding details prematurely, and instead waited patiently to be informed of the outcome of the investigation.

In conclusion, various citizens and patriotic individuals participated extensively in assisting the police and the security forces in carrying out their investigation and apprehending the culprits. In recognition of this outstanding contribution, the ministry of internal affairs has given awards. The support provided by various governmental institutions, regional administrations and the public at large, encouraged us to carry out our duties in the service of the country and the people.

In conclusion, the act by the foreign extremist terrorists, who have abused the long-standing and recognized hospitality of our country, has deeply offended all Ethiopians.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs, 1 August 1995

Al-Baz: Mubarak Attack Had Sudanese 'Dimension'

NC0308090095 Paris AFP in English
0834 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Aug 3 (AFP)—Egypt insisted on Thursday [3 August] that an assassination attempt on President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa in June had a Sudanese "dimension" after Ethiopia pinned the attack on 11 Egyptians.

"Egypt is not just going on plain suspicion," Mubarak's chief political adviser Usamah al-Baz said, quoted by the government daily AL-AHRAM.

"The result of investigations conducted by Ethiopia prove that there was a Sudanese dimension to the attack and there are definite indications of that," al-Baz told a youth conference in the Mediterranean coastal city of Alexandria. "Once this information is confirmed we will ask Sudan for an explanation," al-Baz said.

Ethiopia released late Tuesday the results of its investigations into the June 26 attack on Mubarak, announcing the arrest of three Egyptians who took part in the ambush from which the president escaped unscathed. The report by the Ethiopian state ministry for internal affairs made no mention of Sudan. But the ministry said it was seeking two Egyptian masterminds of the attack, Mustafa Hamzah and 'Izzat Yasin, and one of the escaped attackers, from an unnamed country "in which they are hiding."

Nine Egyptian members of the extremist al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah participated in the attack, five of whom were killed in the shootout or soon afterward, while another "escaped from the country," the report said. Hamzah, one of the main al-Jamah'ah leaders, and his lieutenant Yasin planned and supervised the operation from outside Ethiopia, the report said. Egypt says Hamzah, a fugitive from Egyptian police since the mid-1980s, travels frequently between Afghanistan and Sudan. After the attack, Egyptian government newspapers reported that Hamzah had lived in Sudan since receiving a Sudanese diplomatic passport two years ago.

MB Warns of Violence After Police Crackdown

NC0208211695 Paris AFP in English
1551 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Aug 2 (AFP) — The Moslem Brotherhood [MB] warned on Wednesday [2 August] of a backlash of violence if Egyptian police continue a crackdown on the fundamentalist group after 180 of its members were arrested in raids last week.

"The police campaigns could make the young people (Brotherhood activists) deviate from the good path and lead them to commit acts of violence," Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, the Brotherhood's spokesman, told AFP. "I cannot guarantee what will happen," he added, although he also stressed that the group was "careful to avoid any deviation into violence and is determined to continue its non-violent policy."

Police arrested 180 Moslem Brothers on Friday in the biggest sweep against the group since President Husni Mubarak came to power in 1981. The arrests came amid a growing crackdown which began in January against the group, which the government has accused of backing Moslem militants and plotting the violent overthrow the state. Banned in 1954, the Brotherhood, has been tolerated in its activities since the 1970s when it claimed to have renounced violence in its efforts to establish an Islamic state in Egypt.

In an interview published in the government weekly AL-MUSAWWAR on Wednesday, the Brotherhood's leader, Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, admitted for the first time that his group had an international organization. Abu-al-Nasr denied that the group was trying to overthrow the government but admitted the existence of an international organization which the Brotherhood has until now persistently denied.

"We have branches abroad in Germany, London and Europe," Abu-al-Nasr said. "Members of the Brotherhood who leave Egypt and form a branch abroad have contacts with the central movement at home and this is what is called the international organization of the Brotherhood," he added. "The branches exist and meet periodically in different places to exchange views on the Islamic movement, but it is not an organization in the true sense of the word," he said.

Abu-al-Nasr, 82 and reportedly in ill-health, said the branches are under the jurisdiction of the "Majlis al-Shura" (Consultative Council), the Brotherhood's ruling body.

The Egyptian state press has accused the Brotherhood's international organization of supporting and financing Moslem militants from Egypt and other countries, including Algeria, hiding in Europe.

Assembly Speaker Hails U.S. House Decision on Bosnia

NCC308100995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur—as chairman of the International Parliamentary Union—has stated that the U.S. House of Representatives' decision lifting the Bosnian arms embargo is a serious step to stop the blood of Bosnian Muslims being spilled. In a statement to our correspondent, Dr. Surur said this decision is in line with a call by the chairman of the International Parliamentary Union. He said the implementation of this decision will give the Bosnian people the right to defend themselves. This decision will represent pressure on the Serbs to find a solution to this tragedy.

Dr. Surur described the crimes and massacres committed by the Serbs in Bosnia as a blot of shame on all Europe, distorting its modern civilization. He asserted the need for a quick solution to the tragedy of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and for stopping bloodshed there.

Status of Hala'ib, Shalatin Described

95LD0100A Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 7 Jul 95 pp 20-21

[Article by Ghali Muhammad and Majdi Sabalah: "Al-Turabi: Defendant and Evidence; Situation in Hala'ib: Despite Sudanese Aggression and Egyptian Response, Border Is Still Open to Sudanese; Development Continues; Safwat al-Sharif: Border Between Egypt and Sudan Will Continue To Be at Latitude 22; Hala'ib Is 100 Percent Egyptian; Expulsion of Sudanese Force Aimed To Spare Blood of Sudanese Police Who Were Getting Their Food From Egyptian Side"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite the border clash, normal life has returned to Hala'ib, going on as usual. Egypt has not wished to close the border to the Sudanese who still roam Shalatin's market and buy food and clothing there. Last Thursday's developments have not affected the course of normal life. The question is: What happened there?

Information obtained by AL-MUSAWWAR says that members of the Sudanese police force in the area opened fire on an Egyptian patrol carrying out routine duties in Hala'ib. This is the same force to whose continued stay in its positions President Mubarak had agreed so Sudanese-Egyptian disagreement would not widen. Egypt did not wish to reach the point of an Egyptian-Sudanese confrontation. Even when the force was surrounded and moved to the Sudanese border, the objective was to see that no Sudanese blood was shed by Egyptian hands. What is more, this particular force had been receiving food from the Egyptian side, and its members acted as if they were Egyptians. Conditions there went even beyond food to include health care. But, as announced by an official source, conditions developed there last Thursday when an Egyptian patrol passing through a southern border point was surprised by some Sudanese who opened fire on it. The patrol returned the fire. As a result, some slight injuries were sustained on both sides.

Egyptian and Sudanese casualties were evacuated immediately by plane to be treated at a military hospital in Cairo.

President Husni Mubarak announced last Thursday that he had decided to expel 70 Sudanese policemen stationed in Shalatin, an Egyptian area. The president made his decision after he learned that the Sudanese authorities had forcefully seized the Egyptian defense attach's rest houses in Khartoum on the pretext of protecting them. This was a target that Egypt protected from the first day of the crisis.

Sudanese officials forget now that, when Hala'ib was under their administrative control, they did not build a single brick there and did not provide any noteworthy service to the area's tribes. Rather, they left the tribes to be devoured and killed by diseases. Now, these officials shed tears over the Egyptian Hala'ib, alleging that it is Sudanese territory at a time when neither Egyptians nor the people of Hala'ib themselves, who are reaping fruits of the area's development after prolonged deprivation, think so.

Ali al-Hajj, the minister of the Bureau of Federal Government, has forgotten now that Hala'ib is under Egyptian sovereignty. He has emerged to say that an unequal war is going on in Hala'ib between a 500-strong Sudanese police force and Egyptian armed forces exceeding 4,000 in number. He has also said that the Sudanese police force has sustained casualties, both dead and wounded, among its ranks. Sudan also says that Egypt has amassed forces in and around the disputed Hala'ib triangle in preparation for launching a military offensive to annex the area immediately adjacent to the Red Sea.

Things do not end here. Rather, Ghazi Salah-al-Din Atabani, the Sudanese minister of state for foreign affairs, comes out to say that, if such an offensive happens, the Egyptians will face severe resistance because the Sudanese will defend themselves, and they have been known throughout history as people who defend their territories well. 'Atabani has forgotten that when the Sudanese authorities sent people to stage popular marches in Hala'ib, they could not secure fuel to run their vehicles or provisions to feed the Sudanese police.

'Atabani also alleged that Egyptian fighter planes flew over Hala'ib on Saturday and dumped pamphlets urging civilians living there to leave, thus signifying an imminent attack.

Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, the Sudanese culture and information minister, has said that the military option to resolve the issue of the Sudanese Hala'ib, which is occupied by Husni Mubarak's government, will continue to be extant if Egyptian forces persist in their attacks against the Sudanese forces existing there. Sabdarat forgets that no soldier has existed in the Hala'ib area for years.

The chairman of Sudan's Red Sea Province Council has said that the province has prepared more than 100,000 strugglers from the Popular Defense Forces to repel any foreign intervention. He has added that East Sudan's inhabitants have become extremely angry at the Egyptian regime's betrayal of religious values; its disavowal of the relations of blood, neighborhood, and common struggle between the Nile Valley's two peoples; and its excessive fabrications and provocations, "which we have continued to face with the forbearance of the able." The council chairman also spoke of the treachery of the Egyptian regime's armed forces and their shedding of the blood of Sudanese police forces in Hala'ib, forgetting that Sudan is the biggest center of terrorism and bloodshed in the Middle East [sentence as published]. This official added, "We assure our great people's sons that our struggling men are able to repel any aggression by the Egyptian regime and to defeat the traitors and the agents in Eritrea. These men are the impregnable bastion of Sudan's faith, soil, dignity, and pride."

While Sudanese officials reiterate hollow statements, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stressed that the Hala'ib area is Egyptian territory and that Egypt is entitled to deploy its forces wherever it wishes any time it wishes. But he also emphasized that Egypt does not commit aggression against others' territories because it is a big country that respects covenants and agreements.

The information minister pointed out that Hala'ib is a crisis fabricated by Sudan's ruling gang so it can use this crisis to posture and to cover up what goes on inside the country.

The information minister asserted that the Egypt-Sudan border has been and will continue to be at latitude 22 in accordance with a specific and extant agreement and that Hala'ib has been and will continue to be Egyptian territory.

The information minister wondered as to who started the hostile actions and who seized Egyptian universities and Egyptians' homes and, finally, Egyptian irrigation installations in Sudan? He also wondered who initiated the endeavor to alter the Egyptian identity of Hala'ib's inhabitants and to change it into a Sudanese identity, who closed the plant [not further identified], and who issued prospecting permits?

As to the Sudanese information minister's statement that the military option to resolve the Hala'ib issue is still extant, Safwat al-Sharif urged Sudan's rulers to steer away from such provocation and such irresponsible statements. He said that such statements are rejected and that Sudan's rulers must heed President Husni Mubarak's warnings that all options are open without any restrictions or calculations when safeguarding Egypt's national security is involved.

As for the situation in the Hala'ib-Abu Ramad-Shalatin area north of latitude 22, the only presence Sudan has had was in seven police stations, which the Egyptian authorities allowed to continue to exist only because they had no function to perform and caused no harm.

Before the personnel of these seven centers were expelled, they lived on food and water supplied to them by the Egyptians, especially since the Sudanese authorities were unable to provide them with any food supplies.

Even the Sudanese school, which consisted of just one class, died automatically and disappeared when children of the Egyptian tribes in the Shalatin-Abu Ramad-Hala'ib triangle moved to get their education in Egyptian schools there. Despite the tension resulting from expelling personnel of the seven police stations out of Egyptian territory and even after full security controls were enacted, Egyptian authorities have not been keen to date to close the border or restrict the free movement of Sudanese tribesmen who come to Shalatin market daily to buy and sell there. This market is a main source for meeting the daily food, drink, and clothing needs of Sudanese citizens who live south of latitude 22. If Egyptian authorities were to close the border to these Sudanese citizens, they would starve. The reason the Egyptian authorities have not closed their border is their concern for the Sudanese people.

Meanwhile, al-Nasr Phosphate workers are, according to Engineer Adil Abd-al-Karim, chairman of the Mining and Ceramics Holding Company, carrying on with their work normally in Hala'ib. Preparations are under way to extract other raw minerals, such as iron oxide and manganese.

Far from the tension dominating the relations currently, the Ministry of Development and New Urban Communities is implementing in Hala'ib a development plan that starts with the construction of houses for the resettlement of citizens, schools, police stations, and airfields and that ends with building fishing ports and tourist cabins in Abu-Ramad on the Red Sea coast.

As for the Shalatin-Hala'ib development plan, 184 housing units have been built to resettle the area inhabitants. A total of 606 housing units are in the finishing stages, plus 503 units for [Abbadi Abu-Ramad?].

Three administrative buildings for services, three al-Azhar-controlled institutes, and a central hospital are being built in Shalatin. A medical unit is being built in Abu-Ramad. Two ice plants, a big fish-refrigeration plant, and a basic education school are being built in Hala'ib, in addition to scout camps and beach cabins. Six water desalination units, each with a capacity of 500 cubic meters, are also being built to serve the inhabitants of Hala'ib and Shalatin. Four water tanks, each with a capacity of 2,000 cubic meters, and four others with a capacity of 500 cubic meters each, and eight deep water wells are being built in Hala'ib and Abu-Ramad. Four wells are also being cleaned up.

An airfield with an area of 4,000 square feddans has also been built in Abu-Ramad to serve tourism and development purposes. A sea pier has been built to handle fish resources, and 6,000 feddans have been reclaimed and cultivated.

The road network covered by the development plan includes the 500-km-long al-Ghardaqah-Shalatin highway, the 100-km-long Shalatin [Burnays?] highway, and the 171-km-long Shalatin-Hala'ib highway.

The Ministry of Transport is completing construction of the 290-km-long highway that links Shalatin to Aswan.

Lesotho's Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

NC0208170295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1640 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 2 Aug (MENA)—The foreign minister of Lesotho left Cairo for Algeria this afternoon following a four-day visit to Egypt, during which he delivered a message from his president to President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Libya

Faruq Qaddumi Arrives in Tripoli on Visit

LD0208153295 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a statement to JANA on his arrival in Tripoli last evening with an accompanying delegation, Faruq Qaddumi, chairman of the political department of the PLO, expressed his happiness at visiting the Great Jamahiriyah. He said: When we come here, we come to our kinfolk and brethren in order to hold consultations on events in the Arab region which affect the Palestinian issue. [passage omitted]

Unity Committee Criticizes Arab League Trends

LD0108220495 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 1 Aug 95

[Statement by "an authoritative source at the General People's Committee for Unity" to JANA; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Meetings are being held at the Arab League to examine the draft charter of the Arab Honor. Arab delegations have been studying and crystallizing the proposal in an attempt to agree on a final draft which will be put forward before the next session of the Arab League's Council for a suitable decision.

However, observers of the joint Arab action and its machinery and plans have witnessed the absence of any credibility when it comes to Arab decisions and pledges taken at the Arab League on a number of issues relating to the advancement of Arab interests; to the promotion of joint Arab action aimed at resisting the challenges facing the Arab nation, its existence, its sovereignty, its security, and its higher interests; and to allowing Arabs to understand all other developments which might have adverse impact on the march of the Arab homeland and its ability to achieve political and economic development, and to understand other ramifications aimed at bringing about further rift and fracture to the Arab body in a bid to subject it to economic and political hegemony.

Observers of the joint Arab action have also noticed Arabs' inability to carry out their pledges, agreements, and decisions. Thus, Arabs have adopted within the framework of their league a number of agreements, i.e. the agreement for economic union, the Arab joint defense charter, the agreement for an Arab common market, and the agreement for customs union. These agreements, however, have never left the archives of the Arab League's Secretariat. The latter is the best witness for the reluctance of Arab states to abide by its decisions.

Nevertheless, Arab reality, given the crisis facing it, warrants a quantum leap in the nature of decisions made by Arabs. The great Jamahiriyah drew lessons from history and understood the prospects for the future as well as the dangers and the threats facing the Arab nation when it proposed the Arab Union as a practical project for realizing a comprehensive Arab revival in an era where there is no place for tiny entities or for a narrow regionalist outlook. Only a strong nation can face up to the successive challenges of the modern era. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Joint Committee Accord With Malawi, Uganda Signed

EA0208211995 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha has announced that Sudan signed an agreement determining the prerogatives and mission of the joint committee between Sudan, Uganda, and Malawi during his recent visit to Kenya. He said this confirms Sudan's keenness to establish bilateral relations based on reciprocity, noninterference in the internal affairs of others, mutual respect, and the realization of common interests in an atmosphere of good neighborliness.

It is worth recalling that Malawi began to mediate last month between Sudan and Uganda in order to gradually normalize relations between the two countries following recent tensions.

Fighting Between Factions in South Reported

MM0208134795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Aug 95 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Sudan: Violent Battles Between Rebel Factions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, Khartoum, AL-HAYAH — The two insurgent factions in southern Sudan have engaged in fierce fighting, the severest fighting to take place between the two sides since last April, for the control of positions in the Bahr al-Ghazal region.

Commander Karbinu Kwinin Paul [name as transliterated], vice president of the South Sudan Independence Movement (SSIM), which is a splinter group from the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA], who is now in southern Sudan, has stated that the forces he is commanding in the northern part of the Bahr al-Ghazal region have repulsed attacks by the SPLA led by Colonel John Garang on SSIM's positions.

Paul, whose statements have been quoted by officials in the SSIM, said that "Garang's provocations violate the Lavon accord between the two wings of the movement to cease hostile operations and embark on efforts to reunite it."

A number of southern Sudanese leaders declared in Nairobi last week that they will be holding a meeting toward the middle of this month for reconciliation between the southern political and military forces.

Paul has affirmed that his forces have seized Pantu and Panlit [name as transliterated] and took 12 of Garang's soldiers prisoners and have also seized mechanized and communications equipment. Paul also said that Garang's attacks on his positions "provide a proof that Granag does not want the southerners to unify their ranks," and that he only wants to force them to accept his leadership by the force of arms. He added that "this aim will inevitably fail and the movement that rejects Garang's methods has been growing within the southern circles."

He pointed out that Garang's attacks on the SSIM positions have continued until yesterday and covered the areas of Bayingar, Manil, and Garouing [names as transliterated] in the western parts of the Upper Nile region. He pointed out that the attacking forces "have set fire to houses and looted property."

A statement issued by David Dushan [name as transliterated], the SSIM spokesman, condemned the new offensive saying it was the first violation of the Lavon accord which was concluded between the two movements on 27 April 1995. He added that the SSIM's leader Riak Mashar had appealed to Garang to "respect the peaceful initiative aimed at resolving differences among the southerners and bolstering efforts to unify their ranks."

The official in charge of foreign relations in the movement, Dr. Costello Garang, said yesterday that the leader of the SPLA does not recognize the existence of the SSIM in the regions inhabited by a majority of the Dinka tribes to which he belongs. He said that he believes this was the reason behind this new offensive, particularly as "a big change has been taking place within the Dinka after their despair with Garang, who brought them nothing but devastation, ruin, and the death of a number of their most prominent commanders in order that he would muster control for himself."

He stressed that the rumors spread by Garang about the unification of the two movements were untrue and his statement that Commander William Niyun Bani [name as transliterated] has joined him lacks proof, since Bani recently attended a meeting with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter together with Mashar.

Meanwhile, President of the Higher Council For Peace Linu Rul Rinj [name as transliterated] has spoken of the government's reservations concerning the extension of the cease-fire with the southern insurgents, saying that he believes that such an extension "would become a political burden unless followed by serious steps on the part of the insurgents." He added that the Garang and Mashar movements "were only seeking to gain time in order to strengthen their military positions."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH, Rul pointed out that the Sudanese Government still trusts the member countries of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) as a mediator working for the establishment of peace despite the fact that some of the IGADD member countries have taken hostile stands toward the Sudanese Government. He said: "What Eritrea has been doing in regard to Sudan will not serve the security of the region," and will lead to Eritrea's isolation within the IGADD group.

He added that the government has asked Commander William Niyun Bani to release 72 prisoners who had been detained at the beginning of the year as a condition for entering into negotiations with him.

He added that the Government now gives priority to the "peace from within" process "now that it has established that the leadership of the mutiny was under the domination of foreign quarters, a matter which renders much of the government's negotiation efforts with the Garang movement futile."

He added that the government has resettled 1,000 repentants from the insurgent movement in "peace villages" in the south.

Foreign Minister Taha on Policy Goals, Islam

95LD0092A London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH in Arabic Jul 95 pp 29-31

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Taha by Muhammad Taha Muhammad Ahmad in Khartoum; date not given: "We Rejected Closing Sudan to Palestine's Fighters as Price of Improving Our Relations With Washington"—first paragraph is FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sudan's foreign minister, 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, is a political leader who was visible on the scene during former president Ja'far Numayri's rule and after the April 1985 uprising. Under the multiparty system he held the leadership of the opposition in parliament, representing the Islamic Front. After the military move of 30 June, which the Islamic current supported, 'Ali 'Uthman became minister of social planning and then foreign minister. The following interview with him took place at his home in Khartoum:

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Let the first question be about Sudan's Islamic project, which completes its sixth year at the end of June 1995. During the administration of Lieutenant General 'Abboud, who ruled for the same amount of time, the Islamic movement issued a book entitled, "Six Lean Years." How do you as foreign minister view the [National] Salvation years?

[Taha] Sudan certainly has witnessed many political changes and a variety of civilian and military regimes. Although there certainly were common denominators among the reasons that caused the rise of these regimes, each regime had its own character, flavor, and difference from the other regimes that preceded it.

Lt. Gen. Ibrahim 'Abboud's regime, for example, was a traditional regime that followed the typical course of military regimes that ruled during that period. The army would intervene in government to realize national goals such as keeping order and initiating development schemes, but without ideologies or principles that could be used to mobilize the energies of the masses. This was possible because the period saw an outpouring of foreign aid that helped many regimes implement their programs without the need to stimulate native resources and abilities. The June 1989 National Salvation revolution, on the other hand, came primarily as a comprehensive movement for change. Although the armed forces were its vanguard, its broader framework included the other classes of the Sudanese people. This distinguished it completely from preceding government cycles based on one side of the equation: either the purely military side or the civilian political side; which was why conditions were unstable and quick to change. The present National Salvation administration stands on two healthy legs, God willing, with the military establishment in harmony with the civilian establishment within the framework of the proposed political-ideological program. This is one of the most powerful indicators that the Salvation regime—with the help of God, who determines the fate of governments—is likely to survive and provide a period of political growth based on stability and policy implementation. Furthermore, the policies now espoused by the Salvation revolution are based on an understanding of motivation and are giving the people a strong impulse to build a country of science and faith, based on trust in God and self-reliance. At the same time, the Salvation revolution is massing forces in a comprehensive framework to confront domestic and foreign challenges. Salvation's political program has ambitiously included the problems of peace in the south of the country, building institutions of political consultation and participation, securing the domestic front, developing the economy and realizing social justice, combating ignorance and eliminating illiteracy, and augmenting the skills and specialized knowledge that will help Sudan enter the coming year with the keys to a true renaissance intellectually and materially.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] The world's Muslims are following Sudan's experiment closely. They want it to succeed but fear that it may stumble and fall, since it is the first experiment in the world of Sunni Islam. Sudan's earlier experiment in the time of the Mahdi and his successor ended with foreign intervention that interrupted the course of national Islamic government for nearly six decades. One asks what guarantees there are of the staying power of the Islamic government in Sudan.

[Taha] Certainly the Islamic experiment in Sudan is one aspect of the victory of the contemporary Islamic awakening. The success of this awakening must be founded on the unchanging principles of the first Islamic call: complete faith in God, reliance on Him, and pure intention directed to the Lord who is generous in the end. The success of the Islamic awakening will be based on thorough understanding of the authoritative fundamentals of the Islamic call in its provisions, universals, and principles that govern man's relation to his Lord, to his fellow believers, and to other people who do not share the same creed. These core ideas form the material of the program that underlies Sudan's Islamic experiment, which thus presents a model of integrated dimensions. This comprehensive understanding must arm itself with tools of thought and creative judgment that can deduce solutions to problems and challenges and cast them in a flexible and manageable mold.

The intellectual, theoretical, and legal creative judgment accompanying Sudan's Islamic experiment is an open book that is benefiting from the fruits of the thinking of intellectuals and contemporary Islamic legal schools in various parts of the world.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Does the continuance since 1955 of the civil war in southern Sudan—we can call it Sudan's War of Basus—put tremendous pressure on the Islamic project and prevent it from implementing its social and economic programs? There can be no development with the war, and Sudan is living with difficulty by the policy of self-reliance without Arab or Western aid. Why not propose a more flexible solution? Is federalism enough for the south?

[Taha] The southern war that was imposed on our country undoubtedly serves a plot to separate the roots of Arab and Islamic culture in the African continent from normal intercourse with the other parts of the continent. This separation was based on the forces of colonialism, with their division of the continent into Arab north and Negro south. They tried to establish the political borders of the zone of countries that included Sudan and reached to Senegal and Mauritania on the basis of this racial-cultural division. The southern war is a colonialist trick. The foreigner planted the mine of vicious racism to explode at the proper moment.

So understood, the war is broader than the limited framework of Sudan: it is part of the crisis in Africa.

The National Salvation administration has dealt from the start with the southern issue as a colonial plot to sap Sudan and entrench its backwardness. When the Conference of National Dialogue was held after the victory of the revolution to discuss issues of peace, anyone who needed convincing became convinced that the desire to end the war was serious. Popular feeling south and north rejects this war that is wasting lives and resources. The people of the south, despite the seed of hatred buried by colonialism, knew better, having encountered peace and security whenever they migrated north and lived among their brethren, sharing their food, clothing, and medicine. Migration rates to the countryside and cities of the north are much greater than rates to neighboring countries, a clear sign that the seed of hatred has turned to ashes. The National Salvation administration has proposed federalism. It believes in cultural diversity, religious toleration, and the importance of a fair division of resources and authority. We maintain that the framework of federalism is in principle a just framework for solving the problem. But, we are modest: as for the details, we say that the door is open for further contributions. Dialogue can arrive at the best formula for establishing a government based on the federal principle.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Relations with Sudan's eastern neighbor Eritrea deteriorated and then were broken off. Then the same process took place with Sudan's southern neighbor Uganda. Paradoxically, the Sudanese Government so trusted these two countries that it accepted them among the IFAD [International Fund for Agricultural Development] mediators to solve the problem of the south. How can the Sudanese Government, which still claims to be committed to IFAD's mediation, emerge from this impasse? What about the mediation of former American President Carter?

[Taha] Our esteem for the relationship that unites and binds us to the Eritrean and Ugandan people was, is, and shall remain true. The recent transitory crises do not shake the bonds of neighborliness. Foreign pressures and mistaken political calculations caused the leaders of Eritrea and Uganda to rebuff Sudan in order to receive support from Sudan's enemies. We think these leaders will realize that the calculations on which they based their recent positions are mistaken and misguided and that their real interest, the stability of their regimes, and the realization of their national aspirations must all pass over the bridge of communication with Sudan and special relations with Sudan. These things must be based on respect for each country's national sovereignty and noninterference in its internal affairs. We predict that Sudan, with its powers of self-control and patience in the face of ill-calculated behavior, will be able to frustrate the international contest to spoil Sudan's African and Arab relations and implement the plot to isolate Sudan from its environment. The cunning of foes inevitably will come to naught.

Salvation's initiative is an initiative to solve the problem of the Sudanese south. When Eritrea and Uganda picked a fight with Sudan, the two countries lost their credibility and objectivity and their qualifications to be mediators. There is an opportunity for the other two countries, Kenya and Ethiopia, to play an active role in mediating between the government and the factions of southern rebels. In this regard the recent visit of Kenya's president Daniel arap Moi in his capacity as chairman of the IFAD group confirmed that Sudan is still eager for an African role in peacemaking and strengthening national unity. The efforts of Kenya and Ethiopia to mediate to maintain Sudanese unity are continuing.

Former American President Jimmy Carter is not engaging in direct mediation on the subject of peace. However, because of his interest in the health program to treat certain diseases endemic in the Sudanese south, he finds himself in direct contact with the Sudanese Government and the parties to the rebellion. His humanitarian program qualifies for our appreciation and support.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Do the permanent presence of the Arab Islamic People's Conference in Khartoum and its moves on the scene constitute a disturbance of official foreign policy? For example, President al-Bashir meets his Algerian counterpart Liamine Zeroual; shortly thereafter, the Conference hosts such opposition leaders as Anouar Haddeme. Similar things are being said about the Sudanese Government's dealings with the Palestine Authority while the Conference embraces Hamas and Jihad.

[Taha] Naturally a broad campaign of criticism and anxiety accompanied the establishment of the Arab Islamic People's Conference in Sudan and the formation of its permanent secretariat in Khartoum. The campaign was aimed at the very idea of attempting to create an open popular Arab Islamic framework to discuss the nation's problems. The idea in principle does not conflict with what we believe in. The nation must communicate and take council publicly in broad daylight and in view of all parties. We must hold dialogue. It is shameful that the forums available for discussing our nation's problems are outside the borders of the Arab homeland and nation. It is shameful that we can exchange views with those who disagree with us only in Western capitals. This is one of the guarantees of the return of health to the nation's body and its unity. As for the fact that the positions and actions of the People's Conference clash with the usages and customs of diplomatic activity, the Conference—according to what its component groups have announced and as emerges from its own communiques and statements—is committed to unifying the nation's ranks and restoring its solidarity. This causes Sudan no difficulty. We have made this clear in special meetings with a number of officials at the government summit in Algeria and in other countries. We see the dialogue that Khartoum is hosting as a sign of health and a precedent to be repeated in other capitals eager to unite the Arab Islamic world and alert it to the dangers of the conflicts that are sapping it.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] After the second Gulf war, Sudan was surrounded by Arab and Western isolation. The Sudanese foreign minister's recent tours were meant as a serious effort to break down the wall of isolation. Do you think the isolation will continue, since Sudan's fundamentalist orientation is involved?

[Taha] It is true that Sudan espouses an Islamic line with its spirit based on honor, dignity, exploiting political decisionmaking and sovereignty over economic resources, and maintaining cultural identity—all these things conflict with the interests and ambitions of the Western powers and the powers of arrogance in this region generally. Therefore, Islam in its modern awakening that expresses these ideas will inevitably be subjected to a campaign of distortion and unfair charges, as long as countries of the Islamic awakening such as Sudan and Iran and Islamic liberation movements such as Hamas and Jihad treat Islam as a comprehensive path. Charges of terrorism have been meted out here and there, to make Islam submit and surrender. However, as in the Prophet's tradition, "holy war will proceed until the Day of Resurrection."

Attempts to impose isolation on Sudan are fated to reach a dead end. The Islamic orientation is not foreign to our peoples: it is their path. Some minds were upset after the recent Gulf war when interpretations and positions differed. Our recent moves and contacts have had some positive effects in correcting ideas about the true motives behind Sudan's positions and clarifying the viewpoint by which Sudan works to ease the Arab and Islamic affiliation—there is no contradiction between the two. Sudan's Islamic orientation is no adversary to its Arab Islamic nation. Thus, the areas for cooperation in this framework promise well.

We do not see the West, with which the true cultural conflict lies, as a single bloc. There are cracks in the Western wall through which one can penetrate through objective discussion and an exchange of interests ruled by equality and mutual respect without hegemonism, conceit, or oppression of anyone. As the Koran says: "They are not all alike." Some of them are closer to objectivity and want to be friends, and some of them are most violent in antagonism.

Our contacts with countries such as Saudi Arabia and the Emirates and some of our talks with Kuwait in which high-level leaders of the country participated—I carried messages from the president to officials in these countries—have had the salutary effect of correcting some comments about Sudan's positions, expressing seriousness and good intentions, and resuming Sudanese-Arab relations based on trust and respect, rather than alignments and conflict.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Against Egypt, Sudan's northern neighbor and "older brother," as the Sudanese call her, you have adopted a policy of "paying back double." After Egypt escalated the Halayib crisis, the Sudanese Government nationalized Egyptian schools, universities, and some Egyptian-owned firms and residences. Would it not be better for you to say: "Though they eat my flesh, yet will I spare their flesh; and though they tear down my glory, yet will I build up glory for them!"

[Taha] It is not true that we have followed a policy of paying back double. We believe that the relation between Khartoum and Cairo is strategic and stronger than all brief disagreements and passing conflicts. The measures taken in Sudan after the escalation were pending since independence. They are necessities and requisites of the proposed national program of extending national sovereignty and universalizing the instructional curriculum to other educational institutions. So one cannot say that the spirit of deception dictated them and that they represent a desire to declare hostility against the Egyptian people. My recent visit in connection with Arab League meetings gave me a good opportunity to begin serious dialogue about these ports with the Egyptian Government, as represented by the Foreign Ministry. I think that the assessments on which we agreed, if both sides deal with a higher degree of responsibility and concern for them, will succeed in defusing the crisis evident in certain questions now pending between the two countries. We can reach a remedy for the situation if each country acknowledges the special character of its situation and its internal political equations. The Sudanese position on the Halayib crisis, as expressed by the president, is clear. It rejects being carried away by a foreign plot. We realize that the Halayib crisis is part of the plot that aims to drag the Arab Islamic region into border conflicts. Because we understand it in this way, we have been eager to avoid any occasion for strife. We want to deal with the Halayib issue wisely, patiently, and by calling for arbitration by international usages, laws, and systems. In this context, I should like to express our pleasure in Sudan that this spirit, which dictated the recent agreement between Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman, has prevailed and that the borders between the two countries have been demarcated. We are also pleased by what has taken place between Saudi Arabia and Yemen. We hope this tone will continue and that we can finally close the files on border problems between other Arab countries in this decisive period of our nation's history.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Is it true that some Western capitals have stipulated that you must free the Sudan as soon as possible of such Islamic organizations as Hamas, Jihad, and Hizballah, in order for there to be dealings with what they call "a Khartoum that does not harbor terrorist elements"?

[Taha] This item, with others, was on the agenda for talks with officials in the U.S. Administration, but we rejected making it a condition for the resumption or improvement of relations between the two countries. We believe that our country is part of a wider entity extending throughout the Arab Islamic homeland and that the right of communication within the nation is guaranteed. Europe now is striving for unity, for abolishing political borders in practice, and abolishing visas. We cannot demand a policy of closed doors in the Arab world. Sudan made a bold decision four years ago to abolish visas. Arab citizens have the right to enter their Arab country without them. We still hold to that decision, despite the incidents that have slipped through it as a loophole, causing some voices to demand its review.

We told the U.S. officials that we allow anyone who wishes to enter and stay in our country to stay with full freedom and dignity, provided that he respect the country's laws, ordinances, and usages. He must respect the fact that the Sudanese temperament is based on tolerance and courtesy in political and social dealings and rejects violence, the use of force, and terrorism. This is the practice of Sudanese policy regarding this sensitive issue. The credibility of this thesis is shown by the fact that when we discovered that the terrorist Carlos had slipped into Sudan under the cloak of an Arab passport, the authorities did not hesitate to arrest him, because he had not entered as a refugee or asylum-seeker. We turned him over to France as requested, in accordance with international laws.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] What is your position on the normalization process with the Israeli enemy, a process that is trying to overcome the natural Arab rejection of the Hebrew state? How are you supporting steadfastness, Islamic holy war, and resistance in the occupied territory?

[Taha] It was hoped that the Arab nation would have a strategy with definite roles to try to reclaim legitimate Arab rights from the Israeli usurper. Sadly and regrettably, we have advanced to this decisive, vital battle with a small force and weak cadres that do not give the nation an equal chance. We think that Israel's conduct based on scorn and contempt for the other side and total disregard for world public opinion and its convictions—conduct such as Israel's slaughter of innocents, its attacks on worshipers, its continual aggression, its confiscations of land and eviction of the inhabitants of the occupied territories, its annexation of Jerusalem—all these and other things have resulted in the Israeli enemy's giving those who reject normalizing relations with the Hebrew state many arguments to back their positions. Israel clearly wants the Arabs to normalize on terms that she is superior and they need only to surrender. We in Sudan stand on the high ground of rejecting the conduct of the Zionist state. We are not trying to outbid the position of others. We see our position as forming support for the nation in its battle. We again ask the Arab nation to go beyond the veto imposed on it. It should meet and engage in dialogue about its central issue and emerge with a strategic plan to restore the stolen land to its people and the holy places to all believers. Yes, we must move beyond the wounds of the past and the wounds that new negotiating rounds with Israel may produce.

The Palestinian holy war and the Islamic resistance movement in the occupied homeland deserve to be welcomed. It is a vanguard's steadfastness and opposition against brutal aggression. In Sudan we are trying to give the free Palestinians through our media and political forums a mechanism to enable them to inform and mobilize and to communicate their message to the conscience and world public opinion, so that all who are free in the world can work together with the free Palestinians.

Tunisia

Tunis Reaffirms Support for Bosnia-Herzegovina

LD0208182295 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Habib Ben Yahya and the ambassador from Bosnia-Herzegovina held talks in Tunis today on the deteriorating situation in Bosnia following the Serb attacks on civilians.

Habib Ben Yahya reaffirmed Tunisia's support for the brotherly Bosnian people in their just cause and their legitimate struggle to safeguard their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Bosnian ambassador renewed his government's gratitude for Tunisia's continued support.

Bahrain

Defense Force Signs Military Contracts With France

JN3007142295 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 30 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 30 Jul (WAKH) — A number of contracts were signed between the Bahrain Defense Force and French companies in the fields of maintenance and communications within the framework of cooperation between Bahrain and France in the military fields.

These contracts are estimated at approximately 95 million French francs. This step falls within the process of development and modernization carried out by the Bahrain Defense Force to absorb modern military technology in all its fields.

Kuwait

Ambassador Urges Saddam To Release Prisoners

MS0108080195 London THE TIMES in English 1 Aug 95 p 15

[Letter by Khaled al-Duwaisan, ambassador of Kuwait: "Iraq Still Holding Gulf War Captives"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sir, As we approach the fifth anniversary of Saddam Husayn's heartless invasion of Kuwait on August 2, we remember with great fondness those of our allies who stood shoulder to shoulder with us in our hour of greatest need. Yet those thoughts are heavily tinged with the sadness that persists for more than 600 Kuwaiti and other nationals still incarcerated by the Iraqi regime.

Saddam denies their existenee. He abuses the truth, as he has done so often. He distorts or denies the facts, as he did for years concerning his programme of biological weapons development. Yet, a few weeks ago, he finally admitted the reality of just such a programme (report, July 3) hoping that in return for this admission the sanctions imposed on Iraq will be lifted.

What will it take for him to acknowledge the prisoners he still holds?

It is incumbent upon the international community to maintain the maximum possible pressure on Saddam's regime until it recognises the depth of its crimes against humanity and complies fully with all relevant UN Security Council resolutions, including those relating to the victims who remain hostage to his aspirations. Yours faithfully,

[Signed] Khalid al-Duwaysan, Embassy of Kuwait, 46 Queen's Gate, SW7

[Dated] July 31

Amir Receives Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev

LD0208145395 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1000 this morning his highness the amir received His Excellency Andrey Kozyrev, the Russian foreign minister, and his accompanying delegation.

Kozyrev delivered to the amir a message from His Excellency Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president.

The meeting was attended by Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Salim al-Sabah; Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al- Jabir, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah, minister of the amiri office; and the Russian charge d'affaires to the state of Kuwait.

Qatar

Television Space Channel To Be Launched Next Year

JN0208073895 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 22 Jul 95 p 22

[FBIS Translated Text] It was announced in Doha yesterday that the Qatari Information Ministry is studying plans to amalgamate the Qatari radio and television into a single corporation and to launch a Qatari television space channel next week.

Responsible Qatari sources said the Qatari radio and television will be amalgamated in a single radio and television corporation to make the optimum use of the resources of these two establishments.

The sources said that studies on the satellite transmission recommended an initial four-hour transmission span for this channel.

Saudi Arabia

Council of Ministers Dissolved; New Cabinet Named

LD0208133595 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A royal decree was issued today for the dissolution of the Council of Ministers and the formation of new one. The following is the royal decree:

Royal decree number A/86, on 6/3/1416 AH [2 August 1995] — With God's assistance, we, Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, after taking cognizance of the statutes on government issued by royal Decree No. A/90, on 27/9/1412 AH, the statutes of the Council of Ministers issued by royal decree number A/13, on 3/3/1414 AH and the royal decree number A/355 on 21/8/1402 AH and the relevant royal decree and on the basis of the requirements of public interest, we decree the following:

1. The dissolution of the Council of Ministers and the formation of a new one under our chairmanship as follows:

— HRH Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, crown prince and commander of the National Guard: deputy prime minister.
— HRH Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz: second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation and inspector-general.
— HRH Prince Mut'ib Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud: minister of public works and housing.
— HRH Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud: minister of interior.
— HRH Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Al Sa'ud: minister of foreign affairs.
— Dr. 'Abdallah Bin-Muhammad Bin-Ibrahim al-Shaykh: minister of justice.
— Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin 'Abdallah al-Khuwaytir: minister of state.
— Dr. Khalid Bin-Muhammad al-'Anqari: minister of higher education.
— Dr. Muhammad Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Shaykh: minister of state.
— Dr. 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Turki: minister of Islamic affairs, religious endowments, call, and guidance.
— Dr. Sulayman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sulayyim: minister of finance and national economy.
— Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Bin-'Abd-al-Salam al-'Attar: minister of planning.
— Dr. Mahmud Bin-Muhammad al-Safar: minister of pilgrimage affairs.
— Usama Bin-Ja'far Bin-Ibrahim al-Faqih: minister of commerce.
— Dr. Usama Bin 'Abd-al-Majid al-Shubukshi: minister of health.
— Dr. 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Mu'ammar: minister of agriculture and water resources.
— Engineer 'Ali Bin-Ibrahim al-Nu'aymi: minister of oil and mineral resources.
— Dr. 'Ali Bin-Talal al-Juhani: minister of telegraphs, posts, and telephone.
— Dr. Fu'ad Bin-'Abd-al-Salam Bin-Muhammad al-Farisi: minister of information.
— Dr. Muhammad Bin-Ibrahim al-Jarallah: minister of municipal and rural affairs.
— Dr. Muhammad Bin-Ahmad al-Rashid: minister of education.
— Musa'id Bin-Muhammad al-Sulaymi: minister of labor and social affairs.
— Dr. Nasir Bin-Muhammad al-Sallum: minister of transport.
— Dr. Hashim Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Hashim Yamani: minister of industry and electricity.
— Dr. Mutlib Bin-'Abdallah al-Nafisah: minister of state.
— Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Ibrahim al-Mani': minister of state.
— Dr. Musa'id Bin-Muhammad al-'Ayban: minister of state.
— Dr. Madani Bin-al-Qadir 'Alaqi: minister of state.

This decree becomes effective today, and all competent authorities are asked to implement it.

Saudis Welcome Shake-Up in Cabinet

MS0308115295 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 3 Aug 95 p 3

[Report by Michael Field: "Surprise Shake-Up First Fruit of Cautious Reform"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The seven ministerial changes announced in Saudi Arabia yesterday represent perhaps the biggest shake-up in the Kingdom's government since the assassination of King Faysal in 1975.

To most Saudis and the outside world they have come as a surprise though the militant Islamist Saudi opposition, the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights, which operates out of London, has known for some days that changes were likely.

All of the ministers concerned count in Saudi terms as important civil servants, not as people exercising real power, which is the domain of the royal family .

The ministers of defence, interior, and foreign affairs, as well as the office of prime minister, which is vested in the king, remain in the hands of the al-Sa'ud family.

The al-Sa'uds, who created the Kingdom in the first 30 years of this century and named it after themselves, remain absolute rulers of the country. They are seen by ordinary Saudis as being "the state."

Yesterday's changes are related to a package of reforms, including the establishment of a consultative council (Majlis al-Shura), a set of secular regulations for government and changes to the way the provinces are governed, introduced by King Fahd in 1991 and 1992.

When these reforms were announced, the king said that in future ministerial appointments would be for just four years rather than indefinitely, unless he wished to make exceptions. The first fruit of the new system has now been seen.

The changes will be popular in Saudi Arabia, not because the old ministers were seen to be incompetent — Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, who had run the Ministry of Finance for 30 years, was able and highly respected — but because Saudis have become cynical about the sheer immobility of their government.

The lack of new blood in the Council of Ministers (the cabinet) was one of the standard grumbles of young Saudis — including young princes — along with the poor quality of the media and, until the institution of the Majlis al-Shura in 1993, the lack of any system of consultation.

The changes are not likely to significantly affect Saudi policies, although there has been mounting concern over the ability of the government to cut spending and reduce its $4 billion budget deficit, exacerbated by the $60 billion cost of the Gulf war, which wiped out most of the country's available reserves.

They are most important as an indication of the king's constitutional thinking. King Fahd has traditionally favoured continuity among his civil servants.

Having become used to seeing a civil servant in a particular ministry, he has liked to keep him there. Now it seems that in spite of his age, ill-health, and fatigue, the king is determined to push on with the process of very cautious change, which he introduced in 1991.

Three of the changes are particularly interesting.

Mr. Hisham Nazir has been replaced as minister of oil in part because he was due to retire. He had had 30 years in government, as minister of planning, before he moved to oil after the dismissal of Shaykh Ahmed Zaki Yamani in 1987.

In the latter position, he had offended some officials in his ministry and had been the subject of speculation about his dismissal. But, from the point of view of the king, he was a sound minister because he did as he was told.

His replacement, Mr. 'Ali Nu'aymi, who has been in the production company, Aramco, for most of his working life, should be equally competent. As a former diplomat in London put it yesterday, "The main job of a Saudi oil minister is to go to meetings."

Mr. Sulayman al-Sulaym moves from commerce to the Ministry of Finance with a reputation for integrity, which was also a characteristic of his predecessor.

The replacement of General 'Ali al-Sha'ir as minister of information by his deputy, Fu'ad al-Farisi, could be the most important change from the point of view of the daily lives of Saudis.

Gen. Sha'ir, who was close to the king, saw his job in mainly authoritarian terms.

He had little time for foreign journalists and preferred that they be kept out of the Kingdom. In managing domestic news, he saw it as his job to prevent ny criticism of the government and to see to it, if possible, that only good news should be served to the Saudi public.

He did not allow the Saudi press to report the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 until three days after it had happened. He was known by the public as "the minister of denials."

Mr. Fu'ad al-Farisi is believed to be much more interested in promoting a good image of the Kingdom. He is a public relations man rather than a soldier and he has been responsible for the series of highly successful foreign exhibitions of the Kingdom's development.

King Fahd Names Civil Servants, Council Members

LD0208145595

[FBIS Editorial Report] Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic at 1130 GMT on 2 August reports on King Fahd issuing three royal decrees, which name members of the senior civil service and appointing members of the Consultative Council.

In the first decree:

— Muhammad Bin-'Ali al-Fayiz is named chairman of the General Office of Public Service, with the rank of minister.
— Tawfiq Bin-Ibrahim Tawfiq is named chairman of the Office of General Control, with the rank of minister.
— Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah al-Nafi is named chairman of the Censorship and Investigation Board, with the rank of minister.

In another royal decree, King Fahd appointed six new members in the Consultative Council to replace the six who were appointed to other posts outside the council. The new members are:

— Dr. Rashid Bin-Rajih al-Sharif
— Dr. Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah al-'Ajlani
— Engineer 'Abdallah Bin-Ibrahim Bin-'Abdallah al-Tasan
— 'Abdallah Bin-Tahir al-Dabagh
— Dr. Muhammad Bin-'Ali Habashi
— Dr. Muhammad Bin-Ibrahim al-Musa

A new director of King 'Abd-al-'Aziz University was also appointed by royal decree today. He is Dr. Ghazi Bin-'ubayd Madani.

Yemen

Prime Minister Gets Invitation to Amman Economic Summit

JN0108135895 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani received Jordanian Ambassador in Sanaa Dr. Fayiz al-Rabi' today. The ambassador conveyed a message to the prime minister from Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir to attend the Middle East and North Africa economic summit, which will be held in Amman on 29 September.

The two sides discussed means of promoting fraternal bilateral ties and other issues of joint interest.

Papers Warn Kuwait on 'Hard Line Toward Baghdad'

NC0208193395 Paris AFP in English 1230 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 2 (AFP) — Kuwait will jeopardize its future if it fails to drop its hard line toward Baghdad, official newspapers warned here Wednesday [3 August] on the fifth anniversary of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"Even though five years have gone by, the plotters in the Al-Sabah (ruling family) are still using all means, even bribing countries, to ensure the unjust embargo is maintained," AL-'IRAQ newspaper said.

The UN Security Council imposed oil and trade sanctions days after Iraqi tanks rolled into Kuwait on August 2, 1990.

"We urge Kuwaiti leaders to learn the lessons of the past, to stop their dirty maneuvers, and take another path to prevent foreign intervention in the region and restore calm and stability," the newspaper said.

"Kuwait's leaders forget that the embargo will be lifted tomorrow or the day after and that neither America nor any other country will protect them then," the AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper added.

"Only good relations with Iraq will protect them, and the Kuwaiti leaders must understand that before it is too late, before public opinion starts to reject any dialogue with them because of their crimes," it said.

After accusing Kuwait of stealing oil from border fields, Iraq invaded Kuwait and annexed it as its 19th province, which it based on a long-standing claim.

In November 1994, Iraq for the first time recognized Kuwait's sovereignty and borders.

The government newspaper AL-THAWRAH also blamed Iraq's misfortunes on the Kuwaiti leaders.

"The unjust embargo is nearing an end thanks to the wisdom of the Iraqi leadership which respected UN resolutions and destroyed all the pretexts of the Americans and their allies for maintaining it," it said.

France, Russia and China, three of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, favor lifting the oil embargo once Baghdad complies with UN resolutions requiring it eliminate its weapons of mass destruction.

The United States, backed by the other permament council member Britain, has taken a harder line, demanding that Iraq also comply with resolutions requiring the return of stolen goods and Kuwaitis who disappeared during the occupation.

Kuwait backs those demands.

The newspaper hailed the August 2 invasion as "an Iraqi victory against foreign plots. This plot aimed to harm the Iraqi people and destroy (the country's) economy and harm its scientific and technological development."

A U.S.-led military coalition drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait on February 28, 1991.

Media Mark Fifth Anniversary of the 'Day of Call'

TV Celebrates the 'Shining Symbol'

JN0208204395 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today marked the fifth anniversary of the great Day of Call of 2 August 1990 which was the response to abort the colonialist-Zionist conspiratorial scheme against Iraq and the Arab nation that was executed by the rulers imposed on Kuwait to achieve the objectives of their masters, the enemies of God and humanity.

Iraq's victory in Saddam's al-Qadisiyah Battle [Iraq-Iran war] and its crushing of one of the basic chapters in the colonialist-Zionist scheme, and Iraq's great achievements under the bountiful 17-30 July Revolution triggered the rancor of the imperialist and Zionist forces. These forces found in al-Sabah family their long-pursued prey to achieve the base objectives which the Iranian rulers failed to achieve and to harm the great Iraq.

The Kuwaiti regime pursued a devious suspect policy, which reached the level of an open conspiracy against the Arab nation and its crucial issues and national security. It deliberately endeavored to reduce the oil prices without any economic justification to serve the interests of the colonialist and Zionist forces. That endeavor coincided with a biased campaign launched by certain quarters in these states against Iraq's pan-Arab positions in defense of the Arab rights that were crowned by the clear victory in the second al-Qadisiyah, which it fought on behalf of the Arab nation.

During Baghdad's extraordinary Arab summit conference in May 1990, President Saddam Husayn warned against the dangers of the positions adopted by Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates and their policy to drown the oil market and reduce the oil prices. Such a policy harmed Iraq and the other oil producing Arab countries, as well as the non-oil producing Arab countries which were harmed by the drop in the possible aid which they could be given. The Kuwaiti rulers, however, insisted on continuing to play the role designed for them by the United States and refused any serious dialogue to resolve this problem.

Out of leader President Saddam Husayn's eagerness to preserve Arab solidarity and the nation's supreme interests, and to forewarn the Kuwaiti rulers, his excellency repeated in his speech on 17 July 1990 his warning against continuing this policy which would allow the United States to control the oil prices and produce price fluctuations that would burden the economies of the Arab states and paralyze their ability to set a stable development policy.

The Iraqis' sacrifices and the rivers of pure blood which they sacrificed to defend pan-Arab security, Arab dignity, and the Gulf's wealth, which would have been lost if Iraq had, God forbidden, lost the war with Iran were received by the al-Sabah family with further conspiratorial actions. They were joined in this by the rulers of Saudi Arabia who turned the land of the Arabs into bases, from which aggression, evil, and the weapons of mass destruction are launched against Iraqi citizens, children, and women.

Despite the savage colonialist onslaught against Iraq which had several parties and methods, the Iraqis — with the help of God, the determination of mujahid leader Saddam Husayn, and their generous sacrifices — were able to abort the Zionist conspiratorial scheme and foil its evil chapters. Through their heroic steadfastness and victories they were able to rebuild what was destroyed by the evil ones and start the campaign of the new reconstruction which yielded miracles.

Thus, the great Day of Call will remain a shining symbol in the glorious chronicles of the nation. Moreover, the meanings of the great duel, the immortal Mother of Battles, will remain the lighthouse that guides the citizens of the nation to all the values of heroism and sacrifice.

Paper: Victory of Pan Arab Will

JN0208110195 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0718 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 2 Aug (INA)—The newspapers recalled the 2 August 1990 great Day of Call.

In their editorials, the newspapers explained the necessities and national justifications that led Iraq to shoulder the responsibility of responding to the immortal Day of Call.

AL-THAWRAH, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, said the necessities and national justifications that led Iraq to respond to the tasks of the immortal Day of Call are now clearer than any time in the past.

It added: These necessities and justifications represented the appropriate answer in order to confront and abort the ugliest conspiracy that was plotted by the imperialist U.S. circles by using the symbols of the Kuwaiti regime with the aim of silently destroying Iraq and its revolution, then forcing its people to kneel down and suffocate them with an economic war, which appeared to be harmless but was tough in its aggressive effect.

It says: Jabir's [the amir of Kuwait] role against Iraq was not marginal, but was an intentional, basic, and deliberate role to secure the success of the U.S. design that preceded the August incident, and which began by imposing an early and comprehensive embargo that denied the Iraqi people food and medicine.

The newspaper said: The officials in the Kuwaiti regime refused to heed the repeated Iraqi advice and warnings, which were conveyed by more than one means directly and indirectly, and used several occasions and Arab meetings to convey this position.

It adds: None of the symbols of that regime listened to the Iraqi fraternal call, but they adamantly broadened their involvement in the suffocation of Iraq although Iraq then had been emerging from an aggressive war that was imposed on it, and in which it offered the dearest sacrifices, not only to defend its land and people but also to protect Kuwait and the Kuwaitis from the domination of the reactionary Iranian regime and the tyranny of its rulers throughout the eight years of aggression.

It pointed out the generous Iraqi calls to contain the bad positions of the Kuwaiti regime, starting with the Algiers summit in 1988 and through President Saddam Husayn's messages to the Arab leaders and his meetings with several of them, and the meetings of his envoys with them until the Baghdad extraordinary summit was held in May 1990 in which his excellency warned the Arab leaders, led by the Kuwaiti and Gulf rulers, of the dangers of the Kuwaiti regime's continuing the design to antagonize the Iraqi people and carrying out a wicked and tendentious role to lower oil prices by dumping oil markets.

AL-THAWRAH says: This lowering of prices had adversely been reflected on the Iraqi economic situation and caused huge losses that reached $1 billion for every dollar reduced in the price of a barrel of oil.

It added: The Kuwaiti regime also deliberately stole Iraqi oil resources from the southern al-Rumaylah oil wells, which are Iraqi in terms of origin, exploration, and extraction. [passage omitted]

AL-JUMHURIYAH warned the Kuwaiti rulers against continuing their demand of maintaining the unjust siege on Iraq and the annihilation of its people, and paying bribes to countries and organizations to win support for this criminal demand.

In an editorial entitled "Day for Remembrance..Day for Work" the newspaper said: Had Kuwait's rulers possessed one iota of a mind, they would have learned a lesson of coexistence with Iraq peacefully and normally instead of going further in harming it and its history. They should be well aware that Iraq is the first and basic fact in this vital region, and the siege and all other issues are mere marginal ones.

The newspaper added that the Kuwaiti rulers continue to deal with the subject of relations with Iraq with a unique arrogance and disturbed mind ignoring that the siege will be lifted tomorrow or the day after tomorrow, and then the United States and others will not protect them, but what will protect them is their good relations with Iraq. These rulers should read this sentence well and understand it in the right way before it is too late, and before an Iraqi popular opinion is crystallized rejecting any dialogue with the Kuwait rulers as a result of their crimes and their hostile positions toward Iraq.

It stressed: Five years have passed since the great Day of Call when Iraq was forced to reply after a long and painful patience toward the plotting of corrupt Kuwaiti rulers, let us all remember that the future of the region and the world's stability depend on Iraq. We have remained steadfast in face of the evil empire and aborted its plots despite its determination and promises to change the Iraqi Government. We are now firmly moving forward to snatch the final victory by lifting the siege which the United States cannot perpetuate, even if it succeeded in prolonging it. [passage omitted]

AL-'IRAQ said the 2 August events had not been separate from the broad conspiratorial plot whose final touches were worked out by the U.S. CIA and the Pentagon.

In its editorial, the newspaper said early 1990 witnessed a serious of feverish U.S. movements to undermine Iraq and distort its reputation, and level false charges about its defense projects and military industries in a manner that these circles are professionals and through exaggeration to prepare the international public opinion for accepting any vengeance action against Iraq and its people. [passage omitted]

The newspaper said: Five years after 2 August, the Al Sabah rulers continue to ignite aggression and practice the most dangerous methods of temptation and briberies to secure the perpetuation of the unjust siege imposed on Iraq. They spend billions of dollars to harm Iraq, thus manifesting their blind hatred of Iraq and its people.

Concluding its editorial, the newpsaper advised Kuwait's rulers to absorb the lessons of the past and stop their filthy and malicious tricks, and follow another road that keeps the region away from foreign interference and restores security and stability. All of these will not be realized unless the siege is lifted and the suffering of the Iraqi people is halted.

BABIL said the great and immortal Day of Call will remain a large gate for the future because it represents the deepest and most comprehensive day for the Arabs since it bears the meanings of historical response to the responsibility which defined the nation's right to chose its crucial option.

In its editorial today, the newspaper said 2 August embodies the victory of pan-Arab will. Its significance goes beyond the event itself to reflect a convergence between the willpower with initiative and brave endeavor to restore justice in determining the nation's welfare and destiny against the challenges and enemy attempts to threaten the existence of the Arab nation and divest it of the spirit of victory.

It added that the days have proven the soundness of the Iraqi position after Kuwaiti rulers revealed their conspiratorial role against Iraq's people and its future in implementation of the enemies' designs and malicious plots to perpetuate the siege on Iraqi children, elderly, and women, thus emphasizing their plotting not only against Iraq but also against the Arab nation, its existence, and future.

It said the Iraqi people, especially after their victory in the glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah [Iraq-Iran war] and their legitimate aspirations for reconstruction, were aware of the size of the conspiracy against their achievements and against what had been realized through the dearest sacrifices. The Iraqi people had been aware of the source of threat and aggression, but they were patiently enduring, hoping that the small agents would change their positions, but this had not happened, so the great and immortal 2 August answer had taken place.

The newspaper emphasized that this historic, nationalist, and pan-Arab day will remain alive in the consciences of the Iraqis, the honorable Arabs, and all strugglers in the world.

Baghdad Said Seeking To Improve Arab State Ties

MM0208154095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Aug 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Iraq Tries To Turn Over New Leaf With Arab States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — According to reliable Arab sources, Baghdad is currently sounding out a number of states through Arab mediators included in the recent tour of Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf with a view to turning over a new leaf in Iraqi-Arab relations, and the current week will witness intensive Iraqi activity in the course of an Iraqi campaign to initiate reconciliation with the Arab states after the August 1990 boycott which followed the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Arab sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that al-Sahhaf sought mediation especially with Kuwait to make it possible for the Amir of Kuwait to receive a high-level envoy from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The sources said that al-Sahhaf explained to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid during their recent talks in Cairo the Iraqi plan at this stage to contain Arab differences and submit the Iraqi proposals to Kuwait with the aim of ending current differences and turning over a new leaf based on mutual respect and solution of all current problems in an Arab context, including the problems of POW's and compensation.

The sources stressed that Saddam Husayn's letters to the Arab leaders will particularly emphasize restoration of diplomatic relations with Baghdad and termination of the current boycott. The sources said that Saddam's personal envoys will in their talks explain Iraq's position on Arab and international affairs in the next phase.

Meanwhile, Arab League political sources in Cairo have stated that Baghdad's efforts to bring about separate reconciliation with any Arab state are unlikely to succeed. The Arab League sources emphasized that restoration of Arab relations with Iraq could only be achieved collectively and by a unanimous Arab decision.

Ministry Complains of U.S. Airspace Violations

NC0108152195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 1 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA)— The Arab League General Secretariat today received a memorandum from the Iraqi Foreign Ministry on the U.S. reconnaissance and fighter planes violation of the Iraqi airspace between 1 January and 30 June 1995.

According to the memorandum, the U.S. aircraft conducted 10,490 sorties.

Submitted by Iraq's permanent delegate Ambassador Nabil Najm, the memorandum says that the aircraft took off from neighboring bases and that they inflicted economic and psychological damage to the Iraqi people.

'Baseless' Clinton Letter to Congress 'Dismissed'

JN0308081395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 Aug (INA)—Iraqi newspapers have dismissed as baseless claims the cheap lies contained in a letter Clinton has addressed to the U.S. Congress. They added that these claims were not substantiated with concrete evidence that could be supported by the international community, or even his closest ally. This is a failure that shows the U.S. Administration's isolation. This also shows that this administration is giving in to the Zionist lobby, which is known for its flagrant hostility toward Iraq and its leader.

The papers are unanimous that Clinton's hallucination, as reflected in his letter, cannot misrepresent the facts regarding Iraq's positive cooperation with the UN Security Council [UNSC] and its specialized committees, which have become clear to the world public, and to several world states inside and outside the UNSC as well. This has been confirmed in the several reports they have submitted to the UNSC. Well, the UNSC must acknowledge these facts by way of honoring its commitments as enshrined in Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. This must happen.

In its editorials today, the newspapers asserted that President Clinton lost his balance and nerves when he said in his monthly letter to the Congress that Iraq still poses an unusual "threat" to U.S. national security and foreign policy, and to world peace and security as well.

The newspaper AL-'IRAQ says: Clinton's letter to the U.S. Congress was full of fallacies. It contained a weak argument and repeated a host of naive accusations and falsehoods reminiscent of those contained in his previous letters to the Congress. The public has grown accustomed to these accusations and falsehoods.

The paper adds: The false argument that Iraq poses a threat to U.S. national security and foreign policy, and to world peace and security as well, aims to achieve a notorious objective: It aims to keep in place the economic embargo clamped on Iraq and forestall any measures the UNSC could take to revoke it, particularly since Iraq has honored all the relevant UN resolutions, although it is aware that they are unjust, unfair, and tendentious.

The paper goes on to say: In his letter, Clinton has used phrases that reflect his extreme naiveness and weird arguments, particularly when he spoke of the dangers the Iraqi threat poses to U.S. national security. Can any level-headed person believe that a state that was exposed to the most heinous military aggression in the history of mankind, and that has remained under siege for the past five years could pose a threat to the United States, the greatest power on earth, which is still in possession of all conceivable weapons of killing, elimination, and destruction?

The paper says: On the eve of the fifth anniversary of the Day of the Call [invasion of Kuwait], which fell on 2 August, Clinton must have been hit by a bout of hysteria when he saw Iraq recovering from the barbaric offensive mounted against it and redressing the impact of the devastation and destruction it caused, drawing on the strength, efforts, and creativity of its people.

The paper adds: After learning about the contents of Clinton's letter to the Congress, the public opinion inside and outside the United States will effortlessly discover that the U.S. Administration, which professes to be an advocate of human rights and uses the human rights issue as a ready-made excuse to fight the countries and peoples that oppose imperialist hegemony and custodianship, is abusing human rights in Iraq in the most heinous possible manner, and that it is using instigation, conspiracy, and schemes to eliminate millions of Iraqis through its insistence on keeping the unfair sanctions in place although other members of the UNSC, including permanent UNSC members with the exception of Britain, have become convinced that the stage is now set for a reconsideration of the Iraq sanctions and ending the embargo.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: Iraqis do not believe that the cheap lies about Iraq contained in Clinton's letter to the U.S. Congress are a sign of a strong U.S. foreign policy. On the contrary, these lies are a sign of failure. They are an indication that the U.S. Administration is isolated, and that it is giving in to the pressures of the Zionist lobby, which is notorious for its familiar hostility toward Iraq and its leader for reasons that are known to all. Chief among these reasons is Iraq's genuine pan-Arab and principled stand toward the Zionist entity, which is occupying Palestinian and Arab territories, not to mention the 39 missiles Iraq fired at Zionist dens and the unforgettable consternation and panic they have caused.

The paper adds: Our people have grown accustomed to this malicious and rancorous U.S. stand, which indisputably shows that it is the United States alone which seeks the perpetuation of the Iraq sanctions. It is the United States which seeks to maintain its control of the UNSC, particularly since several permanent and nonpermanent members of the UNSC have begun to modify their stands and acknowledge that Iraq has the right to demand a revocation of the sanctions. This is what has prompted Clinton to repeat his claims, which were not substantiated with any concrete evidence that could be supported by the international community or even his closest ally.

The paper goes on to say: The preemption of the terrible U.S- Zionist anti-Iraq scheme by Iraq and its mujahid leader Saddam Husayn, coupled with their awareness of the proportions of this scheme, have thwarted the conspiracy and killed it in the immortal epic of the Mother of Battles, which is continuing and will continue until the crossing to safe shores is eventually achieved and crowned with victory over the enemies, and until the sanctions are revoked once and for all. Well, evildoers and malicious parties will have to succumb to the voice of truth.

As for the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH, it argues that Clinton's periodic letter to the U.S. Congress, which calls for prolonging the Iraq sanctions, has come to expose the U.S. objectives, which reflect the strong wishes of the U.S. Administration to violate human rights in Iraq.

The paper adds: The nonsense contained in the letter betrays a weak and indefensible U.S. position. The letter contains flagrant fallacies and cheap lies. This is because those near and afar, including the permanent and nonpermanent members of the UNSC, have acknowledged Iraq's compliance with the relevant UNSC resolutions, not to mention the reports Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, has submitted to the UNSC. This shows that the call for perpetuating the sanctions reflects the wishes of the United States rather than those of the United Nations.

Tariq 'Aziz Urges Germany To Adopt 'Fair' Position

*JN0208160395 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1310 GMT 2 Aug 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 2 Aug (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has urged Germany to take a fair and legal position on the issue of the embargo imposed on Iraq.

During his meeting today with a German delegation visiting Iraq under Chlakin Weit [name as transliterated], former head of the German Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department, 'Aziz said: Such a position will not only help the truth, but will also serve the national interests of Germany, which has extensive and fruitful relations with Iraq.

The two sides discussed Iraq's relations with Germany and also with the UN Security Council.

Opposition National Congress Prepares for Assembly

MM0108130795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 30 Jul 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Zuhayr Qusaybati: "Iraqi Congress Funding Crisis: Toward Shares Budget for Parties"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — The opposition Iraqi National Congress [INC] is making preparations for a meeting of its national assembly. Some members of its executive council held meetings in London which lasted two weeks. They discussed the financial crisis and the resignation and suspension of membership by some members in protest over its "management" and its performance.

A high-ranking INC source has revealed to AL-HAYAH that "one of the proposals made for resolving the financial crisis is that the budget should consist of shares contributed by the opposition parties and INC figures." He rejected "insinuations by regional or international figures that some INC parties support terrorism." He reaffirmed "condemnation of any military operation launched from Iraqi territory" against any state neighboring Iraq, with particular reference to Turkey and Iran.

The source denied that any U.S. or British diplomats attended the executive council's "deliberation" meetings attended by its chairman Ahmad al-Jalabi. Another prominent Iraqi opposition figure stressed that "one of the main ways to resolve the INC crisis is to seek Arab sympathy with it." He confirmed to AL-HAYAH that Iran "has closed to the Iraqi opposition the crossing routes to the marshes areas" in southern Iraq.

The source said that the London meetings "focused on unity of the opposition forces and of the INC, assessed the mistakes which accompanied its work and hampered its performance, and drafted specific proposals to be submitted to the national assembly (about 300 members) when it meets as soon as possible." He explained that "extensive contacts have been made with most political (opposition) forces in the INC and outside it and with the forces and figures who suspended their membership of or activity in" the INC, which is considered the largest umbrella for organizations opposed to President Saddam Husayn's regime.

Regarding the date of the national assembly's meeting, the source said that the meeting is supposed to be held after the Kurdish infighting stops "so that the parties of Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani may effectively participate in the work of the assembly," which is considered "the highest INC body." He did not rule out the possibility of INC restructuring. He said that "some proposals on resolving its financial crisis were discussed, such as making its budget a share budget with the various parties and figures contributing their shares."

He repeated that "the INC, as an institution, has not received any funds from any state, and it is not a part of its task to question the member parties about their sources of funds." The source revealed that the question of relations with Washington was among the issues discussed by the executive council in London, in addition to assessment of the internal situation in Iraq. "The parties reaffirmed their eagerness to develop the performance of the INC and make it an effective institution."

He added: "Some regional and international parties are insinuating that some INC parties support terrorism. We deny that, and we condemn any military operations which might be launched from Iraqi territory. We have no interest in harming relations with the neighboring states."

It should be noted that Washington has expressed understanding of the Turkish view that the situation in the part of northern Iraq that is not under Baghdad's control "helps terrorism" through "the power vacuum." The Turkish Army this year carried out its biggest operation in the north against fighters of the Kurdish Workers Party [PKK].

On a possible role to end the fighting between Kurds, the source said that "the INC asked the parties of Talabani and Barzani to invite it to play a part and to treat it as an Iraqi political authority." He refused to "discuss the Kurdish conflict as an independent issue in isolation from Iraq's interests and sovereignty as a united state."

It should be recalled that the last national assembly meeting was held about two years ago in Salah-al-Din (in northern Iraq). Several figures have linked a reversal of their decision to suspend their INC membership to a meeting of the National Assembly.

The London meetings were attended by Dr. Latif Rashid, deputy chairman of the INC Executive Council; Hushyar Zibari, member of the Political Bureau of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] (led by Mas'ud Barzani); Dr. Salah al-Shaykhli, INC spokesman; Muhammad 'Abd-al-Jabbar (independent member);

Dr. Talib al-Bayati (representative of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution); 'Amir 'Abdallah (Executive Council member, communist); Riyad al-Yawir (Council member, Arab nationalist); and 'Izzat al-Shahbandar (member of the Islamic Assembly).

Latif Rashid has told AL-HAYAH that there is agreement to hold the national assembly meeting "as soon as possible," adding that the London meetings "discussed ideas for reactivating the INC and supporting the Iraqi people's struggle, as well as the initiatives for ending the Kurdish infighting." He added that the parties of Talabani and Barzani "agree to a serious role by the INC" to put an end to the battles in northern Iraq.

KDP Invites Political Groups To Discuss Memo

JN0108133395 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman for the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] has stated that eight political organizations have sent a memorandum to the leader of our party on the way to resolve pending problems.

On this occasion, our party has invited the representatives of these political organizations to visit our party's political bureau to discuss the memorandum and identify the aggressor party that has violated the truce on the night of 8/9 July 1995, and to examine the means to deal with the situation and to arrive at the truth, which is always a solid basis for resolving problems and rescuing the Kurdistan people from the current ordeal.

Sources Say Barzani, Talabani Closer to Agreement

95LH0222A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Jul 95 p 2

[Article by 'Adnan Husayn: "Armed Escalation Between Barzani and Talabani Aimed at Improving Positions Preparing for Agreement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources in the Iraqi opposition expect rival Iraqi Kurdish leaders Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani to reach an agreement soon to resolve their disputes and problems peacefully and believe that the resumption of armed clashes between their militias since last Sunday illustrate each leader's effort to improve his position on the eve of the agreement. London representatives of the parties Barzani and Talabani lead, however, do not go along with this analysis. Each accuses the rival party of "thwarting the will for peace" and of "not wanting a negotiated solution."

Iraqi opposition sources referred to "mounting inside and outside pressures" on Barzani, the president of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, and Talabani, secretary general of the National Kurdistan Union, who are now in a position very difficult for their people and the regional and global powers that support them.

These sources provided AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT with information saying that the two Kurdish leaders "have actually made a decision" to sit down together and negotiate and saw in the renewed clashes between their militias this week "a final attempt to improve the negotiating position" of each.

Two rounds of fierce fighting in which heavy arms were used broke out last summer and winter between the two parties' militias, composed of tens of thousands of fighters. In two phases, the fighting resulted in huge human and material losses and led to the collapse of the local government and parliament the two parties formed influenced in the summer of 1992. Each party controlled a number of Iraqi Kurdish regions in the zone outside the control of the central government in Baghdad, with an area of 85,000 kilometers.

The conflict between Barzani and Talabani, who have had a history of enmity complicated by political rivalries, deepened when Barzani's party seized control of the international trade route with Turkey, whose revenues are estimated in the millions of dollars per month, with Talabani's party in control of the city of Irbil, the capital of the Iraqi Kurdish region, and seizing the funds deposited in the region's central bank.

Repeated mediation efforts on the part of local Kurdish and Iraqi parties and the governments of the United States, Britain, France, Turkey, Iran, and a number of parliamentary organizations and groups involved in Iraqi Kurdish affairs, have failed to get the two Kurdish leaders to negotiate and solve their problems peacefully. All these efforts succeeded only in establishing a number of temporary truces since this past April. After Iranian mediation, it was assumed it would expand on its own, whereas the clashes that erupted this past Sunday crushed the dream of expansion, and the parties blamed each other for the recent clashes that followed the visit of a senior U.S. State Department official to Iraqi Kurdistan and his meeting with Barzani and Talabani in an effort to convince them to sit down together. Similar efforts are now being made by numerous Iraqi Kurdish officials abroad.

Speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, representatives of the two Kurdish parties said they regarded as unlikely any imminent agreement between the two parties for a peaceful solution to their problems. Each believed that the eruption of the recent clashes indicated a lack of desire for peace on the part of the other party and an attempt to sabotage efforts being made to this end.

The recent clashes have concentrated on the areas located to the north and northeast of the city of Irbil. These areas are seen as having strategic importance; to the north of them are the towns of Shaqlawah and Salah-al-Din, under the control of Barzani, whose headquarters and residence are in the town of Salah-al-Din; to the south lies the city of Irbil. Since last year these areas have been a target of powerful, two-way attacks; those in power can control conditions inside the city of Irbil and the roads that link it to the other Kurdish areas.

It appears that Talabani is considering forcing Barzani to evacuate Salah-al-Din and Shaqlawah to distance his threat from Irbil, while Barzani, in turn, hopes to effect a similar development with the two towns that overlook Irbil, to maintain his menace to Talabani's forces in the regional capital.

Israeli, French Dealers To Sell Arms to Bosnia

TA0308092595 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by Yosi Walter]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli and French arms dealers will deliver a large arms shipment to Bosnia next month.

The shipment will depart from France and will include TAU and LAU antitank rockets, as well as personal rockets. One of the partners in the transaction is a former senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer who began dealing in arms after he left the army. Israel Television Channel 1 correspondent Hanan 'Azran reported last night that the shipment will be part of a roundabout transaction, whereby the arms will be purchased from Israel by a French element.

Rabin Rejects U.S. Appeal To Resume Syria Talks

TA0208174395 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has rejected U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's appeal to resume the Israeli-Syrian ambassadors talks. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen has learned that Rabin told the Americans: I will not accept the ambassadors talks' coming at the expense of the officers talks. The Syrians must meet their commitments.

Speaking at a closed forum last week, Rabin said: The Syrians are turning every simple procedural issue into a matter of principle in the negotiations, and I will tolerate no such games.

Senior political sources believe Rabin's firm stand will force the U.S. secretary of state to return to the Middle East in September for another mediation shuttle.

Minister Cites Rabin's Pessimism on Syria Peace

NC0308094695 Paris AFP in English 0933 GMT 3 Aug 95

[Report by Barry Parker]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Jerusalem, Aug 3 (AFP)—The Israeli government is taking an increasingly pessimistic view of the chances of making peace with Syria and has refused to endorse talks between ambassadors.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, accusing Damascus of reneging on a deal to hold follow-up negotiations between military experts, spurned a US call to resume discussions at the level of Washington ambassadors, a minister said Thursday [3 August].

The minister, who refused to be named, said US Secretary of State Warren Christopher telephoned Rabin this week.

"The prime minister told him Syria had violated the understanding," he said. Rabin insisted that military experts should meet before or at least at the same time as the envoys.

He voiced his doubts about peace to the cabinet on Sunday.

"I fear that there will be no peace with Syria before the elections, and even after," the minister quoted him as saying. Elections are due in Israel in November 1996.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is also worried, one of his aides said Thursday.

"Peres believes negotiations are totally blocked and cannot understand the behaviour of President (Hafiz al-) Asad," the aide told AFP.

"His impression is that there will be not even be any interim agreement." [passage omitted]

Draft Oslo Resolutions Struck Off Knesset Agenda

TA0208155295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today the Knesset struck off its agenda all the draft resolutions, including Labor's, dealing with the second stage of the Oslo agreement. Knesset Member [MK] Yoram Lass claimed that the computer had not registered his veto, while Speaker Shevah Weiss got confused and voted against his party's draft resolution. The MK's of HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] and the Arab Democratic Party [ADP] abstained in the vote on Labor's draft resolution.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1500 GMT on 2 August quotes 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah as saying that the ADP's abstention was meant "to punish Labor and Meretz for not consulting with them on the resolution and to teach them, Darawshah said, they don't have us in their pockets."

[The report adds that a draft resolution submitted by the National Religious Party calling for "a referendum before implementing the next stage of the Declaration of Principles with the Palestinians" was rejected "by a narrow margin."]

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that both the coalition and the opposition consider the results of the vote an achievement. Likud officials said the vote proves that the government does not have a majority in support of the Oslo agreement, to which Labor officials responded that the Likud does not have a majority even for a referendum prior to the signing of the agreement.

Peres Views Domestic, International Affairs

MS0308100895 London THE EUROPEAN in English 3-9 Aug 95 p 7

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres by Peter Taylor in his office; date not given: "Old Warrior For Peace"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is unusual, and distinctly suspicious, for a politician to declare a lack of interest in electoral success, but we should perhaps give Shimon Peres the benefit of the doubt.

"At my age, and with my experience," he told me in his book-cluttered office in the Israeli foreign ministry — a compound resembling something between a barracks and a campus — "I prefer to win peace rather than win elections. It's what you do with your opportunities that matters, not how long you keep them."

The 71-year-old Israeli foreign minister has been pursuing Middle East peace, often clandestinely, for much of his long career, but, although Palestinian and Israeli delegates are talking again after the bomb which ripped through a Tel Aviv bus on 22 July, the devil is in the detail.

Deadlines have been missed by months and separate talks with Syria on the return of the Golan Heights stalled recently after President Assad introduced new demands. I reminded Peres that he had approved of Francois Mitterrand's remark that history is like a galloping horse, and that politicians must leap astride before it charges past.

He took the point, but is optimistic about soon reaching an agreement with the Palestinians under the Oslo Accord. "There's a fair chance that we can do it before the end of August. And we would very much like to see Palestinian elections taking place before the end of the year." On Syria, he chuckled bitterly. "The horse has stopped galloping. It's very hard, you know. I would describe the Syrian leader in the words of Churchill as an enigma wrapped in a riddle. It's hard to understand his reasoning. Sad."

Peres is sanguine about the military threat from cash-starved Syria, but worries much more about new global dangers which respect neither geography nor governments. With that famous domed forehead and the ever-watchful eyes, he resembles a sort of human radar system, scanning worldwide trends and spotting rather too many alarming omens. "The West has lost its enemy — communism — but has discovered new dangers. We were organised to face our enemies, but we have no organisation to face new threats. Fundamentalism doesn't have a border, and it's an evil movement. It's not the first time in history that we have faced evil movements, but it's the first time an evil movement has had the chance to acquire nuclear weapons. Time is running out."

The warning was given untheatrically in the gravelly monotone which is another trademark. (He gave up smoking 80 cigarettes a day several years ago after an Italian doctor came up with a "miracle" cure.) But is there really a prospect of Islamic fundamentalists gaining nuclear weapons?

"Yes. In four or five years. It's not very long. Seen from a narrow European point of view, the fundamentalists could take over the oil wells. They could play with Europe's economy like playing with a toy. This could happen anywhere in the Gulf, and I include Saudi Arabia."

I wondered whether that would provoke a fresh military intervention on the part of the West. He shot a glance at the ceiling.

"God knows. The coalition that Bush and Begin built to stop Iraq's aggression is now being heavily criticised."

But there are some signs that Europe is getting its act together on fundamentalism . At the Euro-Mediterranean conference in Barcelona in November, the 15 foreign ministers of the EU will meet their counterparts from 12 states in the Maghreb and Levant to work out a "Mediterranean strategy".

Aid, trade, human rights and cultural exchanges are on the agenda, but the entire jamboree is driven by EU fears of fundamentalism spreading, and a flood of refugees and immigrants pouring in from the south.

Peres thinks the conference could be a turning point, but believes it should concentrate on original thinking about practical steps, rather than doling out aid (although the EU has already promised $6bn). "It should deal with water and irrigation, because the Middle East is becoming a desert." And there is also tourism, one of his hobbyhorses. "Tourism is very political. It forces stability and openness. You cannot have terrorism with tourism. Today 10.4 per cent of the world economy is tourism."

These seem modest measures to cope with a gathering crisis. I pointed out that of the 12 non-EU countries attending, hardly any (Israel excepted) have impressive democratic credentials, and that liberating an economy without the reform of authoritarian political structures often leads to a widening gap between rich and poor, fuelling extremism.

Peres pondered for a few seconds. "I wonder if you can really make a country affluent without democratisation. I wonder if you can separate economic democracy from political democracy. Look what's happening in Asia, even in China."

We moved on to the terrorist bomb in the Paris Metro, now suspected to be the work of Algerian fundamentalists. According to Peres, Israel has learned three basic lessons: "Don't be paralysed by fear of terrorism. Put the emphasis on early, preventive intelligence and recognise the international character of many terrorist movements."

The last point led to an impromptu, angry broadside against the United States for engaging in "controlled dialogue" with Iran. "Wherever there is an act of terror, you will find an Iranian finger. I don't understand this delicate definition of a 'controlled dialogue' with the Iranians. They are cheating. If a country is killing and assassinating, what sort of dialogue are we talking about? The fact that the West is incapable of producing a common policy against the fundamentalism of Iran is almost as damaging as the lack of unity over Bosnia."

Concerning nuclear weapons, there are other questions. Israel, which has not signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), is believed to have 100 warheads, and it was Peres who invented the standard non-committal response when President Kennedy asked him whether Israel was developing a nuclear deterrent. "We will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons to the Middle East."

Israel regards monitoring arrangements under the NPT with contempt, and Peres has not softened his views. "The control over these evil materials is senseless. Countries which want to have clandestine bombs will cheat. Iran, Iraq and North Korea all signed the NPT. Locks are only for honest people. Dishonest people break them."

Did he support President Chirac' proposed nuclear testing? A sigh and a silence. "France is a friendly country, but I am in favour of a ban on all nuclear tests." Then a wry smile. "We are a small country and we don't declare our position on every world issue."

We spoke, finally, about Bosnia, Europe's open wound. Peres is an enthusiast for the EU and hopes that a Middle East free-trade zone might be modelled on it. So, for Peres, who was born in Poland, Europe's lack of unity is distressing.

"Europe has an economic character without having a diplomatic soul. It has the wealth to become maybe the most important leader in world diplomacy, but it is incapable of maintaining a constant position. It is eaten up with previous conflicts and present disagreements. I hope a way can be found to overcome these difficulties because it's unhealthy for the world to depend on a single parent — the US. You need two."

We ended where we began, with the Palestinian question. A recent article in TIME magazine described Yasir 'Arafat as depressed, irritable and exhausted. Was that his own impression?

"The article was more exhausted than 'Arafat. Coffee houses are opening in Gaza. 'Arafat feels he is becoming a success."

How Peres measures his own success is difficult to judge. He will stand again for the last time, he says — in next year's Israeli elections. But even if Labour wins, the chances of him retrieving the premiership from Yitzhak Rabin look slender. The awards and photographs of the famous which are scattered around his shelves (including a prominent one of King Hussein) are evidence that he is not unaware of his achievements. He has always been a Big Picture politician.

Pressing him on whether 'Arafat really was grumpy, he seemed like a man interrupted while painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel by the boring necessity of having to wash his brush.

Another deep sigh. "'Arafat negotiates by complaining. It's just part of his tactics."

Hundreds of Settlers Riot in Downtown Jerusalem

TA0208191595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This evening, the police released Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, the rabbi of Efrat, whose arrest sparked a demonstration this evening near the Jerusalem police headquarters in Harusim Square. The police drove the rabbi home. He was released on bail after being told that he is suspected of inciting an illegal assembly and entering a closed military zone. The police say they released Rabbi Riskin because of his medical condition.

Our police affairs correspondent adds that Nadya Matar, one of the leaders of the activity on Hadagan Hill, and a youth who attacked a police officer are still in custody at the Abu-Kabir detention center in Tel Aviv. The police will ask for their remand in custody tomorrow if they continue to defy orders restricting their movements.

The settlers demonstrating in central Jerusalem attempted to block Yafo Street a short while ago, but the police pushed them back with water jets. The demonstrators threw a firecracker at the police, but no one was hurt. Yafo Street is party closed. The junction of Heshin and Munbaz Streets at the entrance to the police Jerusalem District headquarters in Harusim Square is still blocked by hundreds of demonstrators. Some two hours ago, they broke through the police barriers and attempted to reach the police headquarters. Our correspondent Dani Zaqen reports that some 10 demonstrators were detained and at least three wounded in the riot. Five police officers were wounded as well. Negotiations are currently being held between Jerusalem District Commander Arye 'Amit and representatives of the demonstrators, with the participation of Likud Knesset Members Yehoshu'a Matza and Limor Livnat.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 2 August adds: "The demonstration held by Hadagan Hill settlers and their supporters in central Jerusalem has ended after two hours, during which they clashed with the police and blocked the center of the capital."]

Settlers are currently climbing two hills, saying they plan to stay there. North of Ramallah, a large group is climbing Mount Artis, from which they were evacuated yesterday. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is preventing cars and heavy equipment from arriving at the hill.

Our correspondent Yo'av Ya'aqov reports from the Qedumim area that some 200 settlers, including children, seized one of the hills and are setting up an encampment there. At nightfall, a small group climbed a hill near Qedumim, probably to distract the army, while at the same time another group climbed another hill, bringing a tractor and materials for building huts. A small unit of soldiers is at the site.

Army Evacuates Settlers From Bet El Site

TA0308085995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The evacuation of settlers from Mount Artis near Bet El has ended. Army forces are currently deployed at the top of the mountain after all of the settlers have been evacuated. Two sheds under which the settlers congregated were dismantled by the security forces. This is reported by our settlement affairs correspondent Gil Litman. Some 200 settlers have been detained for interrogation at the military government building in Ramallah.

Half of Israelis 'Unclear' About PLO Agreement

TA0308094195 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 Aug 95 p 7

[Report by Yehuda Golan]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two years after it was signed, the Israel-PLO agreement remains unclear to half the Israeli population, according to a study conducted by Prof. Elihu Katz and Hana Levinson of Hebrew University's Gutman Institute for Applied Social Research.

The findings show that at this point the agreement remains unclear to 48 percent of Israelis, as opposed to 52 percent who said the agreement was clear to them. In September 1993, when the agreement was signed, only 40 percent said it was clear to them.

The current study was conducted among 506 respondents who constitute a national representative sample and were polled on many questions related to the peace process. Some 41 percent said they were in favor of extending autonomy to other areas, as opposed to 50 percent who had favored such a notion on the eve of the agreements signed with the PLO and Jordan.

Concerning the settlements, 80 percent of the respondents believe the settlers will react violently to Israel's withdrawal from the territories.

Most of the public disagrees with the implementation of the next stage of the agreement, in the course of which the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will pull out of several cities in the West Bank; only 42 percent favor it, as opposed to 58 percent who are opposed to transferring governing powers in additional cities to the Palestinian Authority.

At the moment, 39 percent agree to the establishment of a Palestinian state, while 90 percent believe the chances of such a state ultimately being established have definitely increased.

Some 65 percent are opposed to a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for full peace, as opposed to 35 percent who favor such a move.

The consensus on Jerusalem persists, with 85 percent against any compromise or change whatsoever in the status of the city and the same percent favoring continued construction around the city.

Radio Reports Arrest of WTC Bombing Suspect

JN0308072195 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A U.S. official who declined to be named has stated that Jordan handed over to the United States yesterday evening a man who is suspected of participating in the New York World Trade Center [WTC] attack. The U.S. official said that the man, whose identity has not been disclosed, is due to arrive at an airport close to New York on board a U.S. Government plane. He added that the authorities will today issue a federal indictment naming the man as one of those who planned the explosion which killed six and wounded 1,000.

For its part, the ABC television network reports that the man handed over by Jordan is a Palestinian with a Jordanian passport. As for CBS, it said that he has been accused because he was present in the small van in which the bomb was placed.

Jordanian's Role in Blast 'Crucial'

NC0308073295 Paris AFP in English 0724 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iyad Najm, a Jordanian of Palestinian origin who has been extradited to the United States by Jordan, played a "crucial" role in the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center in New York City, reliable sources said Thursday [3 August].

Justice Minister Confirms Extradition

NC0308082595 Paris AFP in English 0810 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman, Aug 3 (AFP)—Jordan confirmed Thursday [3 August] it had extradited Iyad Mahmud Isma'il Najm, a Jordanian of Palestinian origin, to the United States.

Justice Minister Hisham al-Tall said 26-year-old Najm, who was born in Kuwait, lived in the United States until the day of the February 26, 1993 World Trade Center bombing, when he flew to Amman. [passage omitted]

Further on Justice Minister's Comments

JN0308094095 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Justice Minister Hisham al-Tall has stated that the U.S. judicial authorities previously asked the Jordanian Justice Ministry to hand over Iyad Mahmud Isma'il Najm, who is accused of participating in blowing up the New York World Trade Center.

Al-Tall said that the defendant voluntarily chose to travel to the United States, so there was no need to process the required extradition papers in accordance with the law on extraditing criminals and the judicial agreement signed with the United States on handing over criminals at large between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the United States of America.

A proces-verbal was drawn up in the presence of the justice of the peace of the Amman criminal court on 1 August 1995.

The defendant was born and resided in Kuwait. Following the Gulf war, he moved to the United States and departed there on a Royal Jordanian plane on the evening of the same day as the World Trade Center explosion, which occurred the morning of 26 February 1993.

The justice minister said that the ministry will follow up the interrogation with the defendant and will be in contact with U.S. judicial authorities to stay informed on the progress of the trial and the right to counsel that will be given to him.

Foreign Minister Discusses King's Qatar Visit

JN0308082995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn began a two-day visit this afternoon to the sisterly State of Qatar, during which his majesty will hold talks with his brother His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar. Talks will deal with relations between the two countries, the Arab situation, and regional and international issues. Official talks between his majesty and Shaykh Hamad will open tomorrow morning.

Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti answered the questions of Qatari media representatives on His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Qatar, Jordan's efforts to restore Arab solidarity, and the peace process. Following are excerpts from the interview with the foreign minister.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Your Excellency, how do you evaluate Qatari-Jordanian relations in the new era?

[Al-Kabariti] Actually, we are delighted and honored to be hosted by his highness the amir in this fraternal and dear country. This is a new era. However, our relations with Qatar are old and are full of amity and brotherhood. We believe that this visit will reinforce bilateral relations that have always been full of cooperation, solidarity, and brotherhood. We are highly confident that this will be a fruitful and successful visit, God willing.

[Correspondent] What fields of cooperation are subject for discussion between Jordan and Qatar?

[Al-Kabariti] There are many fields. Of course, there is the political dialogue between his majesty the king and his highness the amir, which will cover Arab, regional, and international issues. Moreover, there are programs dealing with economic cooperation. There is a very big program that we look forward to discussing in detail. It deals with the issue of Qatari gas and the possibility of transporting it to Jordanian ports and then using Jordanian ports as a station to market it in the region and the world. There are fields of cooperation in the banking sectors and in the land, sea, and air transportation sector. There is a new Qatari airline company and we hope to reach an agreement that deals with air transportation between Qatar and Jordan. Furthermore, there are all forms and volumes of trade. We hope that things will develop to a level that suits the historical relations between our two countries.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, we heard that His Majesty King Husayn is carrying a Jordanian initiative on lifting the economic sanctions on Iraq?

[Al-Kabariti] Actually, this is a very sensitive issue. There is no initiative in the accurate sense. There is readiness to launch a Jordanian initiative. The issue is linked to the availability of certain conditions. Of course, the elements of the equation are Iraq's willingness to commit itself to all international requirements as well as all other international parties' willingness to establish a dialogue with Iraq. The Jordanian effort is exploratory and aims to gauge the extent of readiness by the two sides to reach a point at which it would be possible to launch an initiative, whether a Jordanian or a joint Arab one. Jordan has no objection to this. The basic objective is a humanitarian one, which is to lift the suffering of the Iraqi people. We fully realize that the Iraqi people are suffering from some kind of human tragedy that will negatively reflect on Iraq's territorial integrity and sovereignty. We truly believe that any Iraqi weakness is a weakness in the Arab realm. We hope that Iraq in the near future will be able to recover and restore its role in the Arab realm vis-avis boosting stability and security in the region.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, His Majesty King Husayn has recently paid a visit to Egypt where he met with President Husni Mubarak. It was said that these talks were aimed at closing Arab ranks and restoring Arab solidarity. What has been achieved in this regard?

[Al-Kabariti] Jordanian efforts to close Arab ranks and to clear the atmosphere are very well known. They were expressed by his majesty the king on more than one occasion, especially in terms of the Jordanian dimension, when he said that we are ready to reciprocate every Arab step with Jordanian steps. We hope that this proposal is shared by all and that there will be a true and clear inclination toward openness and a future vision that is not hostage to the legacy of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. We want to proceed toward the future where there lies a strategic outlook and a strategic and pan-Arab interest that should prevail when we speak about a minimum level of Arab solidarity that secures the achievement of these strategic objectives.

[Correspondent] Also proceeding from the principle of Arab solidarity, you have recently visited the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and you mentioned that this visit was a success. Are there any upcoming visits to other Gulf countries and at what level?

[Al-Kabariti] Certainly, this also was a productive visit — one which we hope his majesty the king will pay to all Arab countries. We can say that our relations with Gulf countries are good. We want these relations to be distinguished and special. Our relations with Saudi Arabia began to assume a form that is different from that which prevailed during the past five years. We hope that in the near future we will be able to develop these relations to restore the good past which prevailed between our two countries.

There are serious efforts toward Kuwait and contacts are continuing between myself and his excellency the Kuwaiti foreign minister. Things might take some time. However, as far as Jordan is concerned, we are serious that our choice be an Arab choice and our trend be an Arab one, too. We are also serious that our inter-Arab relations not be described as normal but as distinguished, special, and have a nature of true brotherhood.

[Correspondent] We want to ask your excellency about the peace process. Jordan has lifted the economic boycott against Israel. It was said that this decision should emanate from the Arab League. How would you comment on this?

[Al-Kabariti] In fact, when we entered the peace process — which was based on the terms of reference of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the Madrid conference to which all parties that took part in Madrid conference were committed... [pauses] The Jordanian decision has been and will continue to be governed by the Jordanian interest alone. We believe that Jordan has achieved, through signing the peace treaty with Israel, a balance of interests. Jordan has not relied on the existing balance of power, which is absolutely not in favor of the Arab world or Jordan. Our rights to land and water — which we managed to wrest and the agreements that will enable us to deal with Israeli with equitability, balance, and equality — have all realized a strategic and urgent Jordanian demand related to our future strategic interest. Laws on lifting the boycott are part of the requirements of the treaty. We feel that passing these laws is part of the Jordanian sovereignty. No other party has the right to interfere in this issue.

[Correspondent] An economic summit will be held in Jordan next October. What are the most important issues which will be discussed during the summit and what is Jordan's viewpoint on it?

[Al-Kabariti] In fact, this economic summit completes what was achieved at the Casablanca conference. We believe that this summit will provide a forum for businessmen and investors from all over the world and from North Africa and the Mediterranean region. During this summit, these people can strike deals and evaluate projects which could be set up in this region to help raise the standard of living, improve living conditions, and increase the level of growth in the region. Indeed, security and stability will have no meaning without any tangible economic progress that reflects in a positive way on the people of this region. We hope that this summit will be a launching pad for real and positive cooperation among the countries of the world and the Middle East region. We are proud that Amman is the venue for this forum.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, what are the means to closing Arab ranks amid current conditions?

[Al-Kabariti] In fact, there should be no rigidity in looking to the past. There has to be a flexibility in accepting the fait accompli. We must insist on proceeding toward the future and to have a future perspective that is governed by a unified Arab strategy, interest, and security. There are many challenges that we have to face and chances that we must seize. If we fail to do so, we will remain hostage to the past and, hence, to backwardness.

Al-Karaki, PA's 'Abd-Rabbuh Comment on Meeting

JN0208162495 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, deputy prime minister and minister of information, received at his office today Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture and information for the Palestinian National Authority [Palestinian Authority, PA]. After the meeting, 'Abd-Rabbuh said:

[Begin recording] ['Abd-Rabbuh] We base our relationship on coordination and cooperation in the cultural and information areas, as stated in the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement. We base our relationship on what is more important even than all signed agreements — the unity of action and vision of the two brotherly parties. During this meeting, we discussed scopes of practical cooperation in various fields, including publications, news agencies, television, radio, and practical matters of mutual concern.

We are interested in gaining experience, particularly from a country that is closest to us not only geographically, but also spiritually and culturally. We are also linked together by national and pan-Arab ties. [end recording]

For his part, Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, deputy prime minister and minister of information, said:

[Begin recording] [al-Karaki] This meeting is part of the continuous exchange of opinion and consultations between brothers not only in the area of information, but also in the various fields of responsibility in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the PA. On the Jordanian side, I would like to stress our eagerness, as directed by his majesty the king, to offer all we can to help our brothers in the PA, who are shouldering great responsibilities at this historic stage in their struggle.

As for the fields of information and culture, I would like to say that we totally agree that we are seeking coordination and cooperation that goes beyond the mere signing of agreements and protocols. We are talking about continuous practical steps on which we continuously consult and exchange opinions.

His Excellency 'Abd-Rabbuh and myself have asked our brothers the leaders of news media in both countries to continuously meet at any level they see fit to overcome any obstacles, to extend all possible assistance, to mutually benefit from each others' experience, and to exchange publications and books. Technical and technological aspects are extremely important at this point. We would like to provide our brothers in the PA's technical departments all we can so that they can start at an advanced technological level, and eventually convey the national and pan-Arab Palestinian message, in addition to the Jordanian national message, which we seek to convey to the Arab nation and to the whole world. [end recording]

Prime Minister Meets Palestinian Tourism Minister

JN0208161595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received Ilias Frayj, minister of tourism for the Palestinian National Authority, at his office in the Prime Ministry this morning.

The two sides reviewed all aspects of fraternal Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the peace process, particularly the stages covered by the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

In press statements following the meeting, Frayj praised the deep-rooted, distinguished, and fraternal relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. He said: We are committed to the strong relations between us and our people in Jordan.

On the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, Frayj said: We have not realized all the desired results thus far. He voiced hope that the long-term policy will lead to the restoration of the Palestinian rights.

Hizballah: Abu-Marzuq Arrest 'Hostile Act'

MM0208163595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Aug 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Hizballah Holds Washington Responsible for Consequences of Abu-Marzuq's Arrest"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH — In a statement issued yesterday, Hizballah said that "the U.S. authorities' arrest of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, chairman of the Political Bureau of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), is part of a hostile and abominable U.S. campaign against the Palestinian mujahidin who have rejected the humiliating and treasonous agreements concluded with the Zionist enemy, especially the Oslo agreement which cedes the Palestinian people's cause, rights, territory, and holy places in Palestine."

The statement added: "As the U.S. Administration's main concern is to peddle a settlement in favor of the Zionist entity with the aim of completing the joint U.S.-Israeli plan of defeating the region and controlling it politically, in matters of security, militarily, economically, and culturally, it has launched and sponsored an open and hostile campaign in a serious escalation against all the honest and sincere forces who oppose the settlement process and reject its results throughout our Arab and Islamic worlds. It is in that context that Hamas has been targeted as a Palestinian Islamic faction of opposition and resistance."

It said that the arrest of Abu-Marzuq was "in harmony with the repressive campaign carried out by the autonomous authority against the opposition in the Gaza Strip including many Hamas officials and mujahidin, completing the containment measures taken by the Jordanian regime including the closure of its political and information offices and the expulsion of some officials including Dr. Abu-Marzuq himself."

The statement added that "that line confirms that American terrorism is being carried out by a direct decision from the U.S. Administration, with continuing escalatory steps reaching the point of the sinful and utterly unjustified arrest of Dr. Abu-Marzuq. That was a terrorist move clearly exposing the extent of the U.S. Administration's hostility, conspiracy, and hate of our peoples, nation, and causes as well as the extent of its flagrant alignment with the Zionist entity despite is occupation of our land and its use of all forms of terrorism and aggression against our peoples."

It pointed out that "the dimensions of this arrest crime began to become clear when the Zionist enemy initiated practical and judicial steps towards making an official request for the extradition of Dr. Abu-Marzuq, and when indications appeared that his detention might be prolonged on the pretext of examining files related to him, be it in connection with violation of immigration laws or anything else. That crime would reach its highest point if the U.S. Administration did hand him over to the oppressive Zionist enemy."

It concluded: "While denouncing and condemning that crime, we see it as an extremely serious hostile act against all sons of the Arab and Islamic nations for all the consequences of which the U.S. Administration will be held responsible. We emphasize that he should be released immediately and unconditionally."

Fadlallah Describes U.S. Policy as 'Israeli'

NC0308065095 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said the current U.S. Administration is an Israeli Administration supervised by a president who has U.S. citizenship. He added that some of this administration's members carry dual citizenship.

His eminence reiterated that the United States is the police for Israel, pursuing Israel's enemies everywhere to arrest, oppress, and assassinate them. He said there is no U.S. policy on the Middle East; it is an Israeli policy.

Syrian Defense Minister Talas Pays Visit

JN0308104495 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Upon the instructions of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and minister of defense, this morning visited one of our combat formations operating in Lebanon.

Upon the arrival of the deputy commander in chief, who was accompanied by Lt. Gen. 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces, at the formation's command, he was welcomed by the commander of the Syrian Arab troops operating in Lebanon, who holds the rank of major general; the commander of the formation, who holds the rank of major general; and a large crowd of combatants.

The minister of defense delivered a speech on the occasion. He began by relaying the greetings of leader struggler Hafiz al-Asad to the fraternal combatants, his congratulations to them on the 50th anniversary of the Syrian Arab Army, and his wishes of success for them in the performance of their pan-Arab tasks, which reinforces the ideological role of the Syrian Arab Army in promoting the popular unity and territorial integrity of fraternal Lebanon and strengthening fraternal ties between the two countries.

The minister of defense addressed the nationalist and pan-Arab significance of the message his excellency the president addressed to the Army and Armed Forces on the 50th anniversary of the Syrian Arab Army, asserting that since its inception, our Army has resolved to epitomize in its growth and development the aspirations and purposes of our people, and to serve as an ideology-driven army that believes in these aspirations and purposes, defends them, and strives to uphold them. Moreover, the Syrian Arab Army has vowed to be the nation's army that champions its causes and confronts its enemies.

The minister of defense explained to the combatants the current status of the peace process and Israel's intransigent and evasive position, which is aimed at evading the requirements of just and comprehensive peace. This has been made manifestly clear in its arbitrary tactics and practices, particularly against brothers in southern Lebanon, and in the military escalation it constantly triggers to influence Lebanon's position toward current issues and pressure it into capitulation.

The minister of defense added: We in Syria, under struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, are seeking peace. Nonetheless, we will not bargain over any of our rights. We will always remain committed to the components of a just and comprehensive solution, confident of our ability to liberate our occupied territories and achieve the just and comprehensive peace desired by our masses in the region, the peace that would ensure the restoration of all the territories and rights in accordance with the relevant international legitimacy resolutions.

The minister of defense concluded by relaying his greetings to the fraternal Lebanese Army, which is currently celebrating its golden jubilee, and wished it further progress on all levels. He also urged the fighters to remain alert, vigilant, and constantly ready to thwart the schemes of the nation's enemies, who are trying to undermine our steadfastness. He called upon them to epitomize the values and instructions of struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad, and to uphold the undying slogan of "Choosing Martyrdom or Victory."

Afterward, the minister of defense left the formation's command after he had been accorded a hospitable and generous send-off ceremony.

Talas Interviewed on Peace Talks

NC0208183595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1602 GMT 2 Aug 95

[Interview with Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas by unidentified correspondents in northern Lebanon on 2 August—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] General, where have the negotiations reached now?

[Talas] With regard to the negotiations, the [Syrian] foreign minister came here to visit you a few days ago. Vice President Khaddam also came, and two days ago he made a statement.

The negotiations have so far not resulted in anything, because the Israelis want negotiations for the sake of negotiations. We want negotiations in order to realize a basic objective—peace. Therefore, the Israelis do not want peace. They want to play games with us, believing that Syria, and thus our brothers in Lebanon, are like Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn and will accept anything that they are given by the enemy. We have firm principles. We do not forfeit any of our rights. Time is in our favor.

There can be no peace without Syria and Lebanon. There can be no peace; time will prove this. If there is to be a real peace, then there should be a withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon. Only then will there be peace. Otherwise there is no chance.

The president was very clear in his stance when he met with [U.S. negotiator Dennis] Ross. He asked him if he had anything new to offer. Ross said he had nothing new to offer him, and the president said [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] In your opinion is there any solution to the Israeli and the U.S. [word indistinct]?

[Talas] Actually, I repeat what I said before. For us in Syria, the peace decision is a strategic decision. However, this strategic decision does not mean a concession of basic principles. We already said we want the 4 June [1967] borders, so we want the 4 June borders. We cannot accept early-warning stations because we consider them to be spying centers. If there were even one Israeli soldier stationed in these stations, we would still consider it a violation of Syrian sovereignty. We told them that supervision from space is better through satellites and airplanes. [Words indistinct] basically. However, their insistence on this point and that they will not budge an inch from this stance means that they do not want peace and are playing games with us.

With regard to the negotiations, as Talal Salman [chief editor of the Lebanese daily newspaper AL-SAFIR] said: If the issue is a war of nerves, then the president is up to it because not only is he a graduate of this school but has become a professor in this field. He has a real policy which he follows. In the war of nerves, President Hafiz al-Asad is more calm and collected than any Arab, or even international leader.

During Mr. Clinton's visit to Damascus and his meeting with the president in Geneva, it even became evident that Clinton's reasoning agreed with Syria's, because Syria is on the side of justice and fairness.

[Correspondent] General, do you believe that the motive behind the Israeli enemy's proposal is to stall the peace process in the Middle East? That is, their proposal of an early-warning station and other such things?

[Talas] Of course. The enemy is making the issue of the early-warning systems the primary issue. Syria does not accept this. Israeli Chief of Staff Shahaq told General Hikmat that we had resolved this point. However, after he returned to Israel he received further directives from Rabin and came back to say that we are not done with this issue and that it is a major issue.

We totally reject the installation of early-warning stations. We explained that to Shahaq and Israel. General Hikmat told him: You want an early-warning station, but you had one on Mt. Hermon and we occupied it on 6 October [1973]. It was the first target to be occupied by the special forces. This station was in our hands at 1405 on that day. So the early-warning station is worthy of note. There was one on Mt. Hermon and we occupied it. Two hours after the war started the early-warning station was in the hands of the Syrian forces.

Thus, we told the Israelis that nothing can protect them. The main thing is a basic dedication to peace. We believe that Israel can see its collapsing stances in Jordan and with Yasir 'Arafat, the chief of the limited authority in occupied Palestine. Israel can see that 'Arafat accepts anything. He accepts any crumbs that the enemy throws to him. He considers this to be a gain. We do not consider this to be a gain. We are fully in the right and President al-Asad — [pauses] Kissinger, Karim Paqraduni, [words indistinct] testified saying that President al-Asad is a negotiator [word indistinct]. Even the Israeli deputy chief of staff said that negotiations with President al-Asad are more difficult than waging war against him. Therefore, they know that President al-Asad will not relinquish land, nor will he give up one inch of national soil.

Unfortunately, Yasir 'Arafat responded to Israel's views and to the pressures, after the U.S. pressures failed. Because the United States cannot put pressure on Syria as long as we are in the right. They asked Faysal al-Husayni first and then asked Yasir 'Arafat to claim the al-Himmah area, which they called the Palestinian Golan. This is the first time the term Palestinian Golan has been heard. The Golan is known to be Syrian.

[Correspondent] Why was Israel initially very enthusiastic about peace, but then placed obstacles in the way of these negotiations?

[Talas] Israel only wants to show world public opinion that there are negotiations and some movement toward peace. However, in fact, there is no peace. Israel is (?deceiving] world public opinion. President al-Asad stopped the proceedings. He told the Israelis that it is impossible to deceive us. He said: We have basic principles; if you sign them, we will continue the military (talks?). He added: If you do not agree, we are not 'Arafat or the Palestinians who are happy with mere recognition. We have been here for 6,000 years; Syria and Lebanon existed 4,000 years before Christ, before written history. We do not need anyone to recognize us.

Israel needs recognition from anyone. Therefore, we do not negotiate for the sake of negotiations. We will not give a deceitful picture to the Arabs and others. We will not say that things are proceeding well. No, they are not. [Words indistinct] are not proceeding well and we adhere to our stance.

[Correspondent] How do you view the situation in southern Lebanon?

[Talas] The south and the Lebanese resistance there [words indistinct]. Hizballah [words indistinct]. There is no interest in having any Lebanese cross the borders, because we have already said that the peace option is strategic. But this does not mean that we will return to Israel's tricks and the 17 May [1983] agreement they concluded. That agreement turned Lebanon into an Israeli protectorate. [Words indistinct] despite the fact that the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies approved it. The Lebanese people were opposed to that agreement. Only what is right will survive.

Buwayz, 'Sources' Cited on Khaddam Talks in Beirut

MM0208111995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Aug 95 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Khaddam Reaffirms Damascus' Rejection of Early-Warning Stations"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Beirut, AL-HAYAH — Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam yesterday visited Lebanon and met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. He exchanged views with them on developments in the peace negotiations and the Lebanese internal situation. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said that "the meeting was an opportunity to exchange views on the latest developments pertaining to the region, particularly the negotiations, which have been stumbling as a result of Israel's insistence on terrestrial early warning stations. We all know the problems that could arise from such requests, whether in relation to finance or legal issues relevant to such matters." [passage omitted]

In reply to a question about the U.S. role, he said: "Of course, we would have liked more pressure from the United States out of awareness of the importance of that process in order not to allow Israel to impede things and maneuver, but, at any rate, the United States is actively playing the part of driving force and we hope that part will continue so that the negotiations may achieve their desired objective." [passage omitted]

Official sources acquainted with some aspects of Khaddam's talks with the president and the prime minister said that although the purpose of the visit was to convey condolences on the death of al-Hariri's mother, the talks did cover a number of current issues. "One thing leads to another, and in such cases many issues are discussed."

The sources said that "Khaddam reviewed the Syrian position on the points still pending in the peace negotiations and Damascus' rejection of the early warning stations formula related to the security arrangements." The sources added that "the discussions during Khaddam's meeting with al-Hirawi and al-Hariri broached relations between the heads [Lebanese president, prime minister, and speaker of the Chamber of Deputies]. Some had spoken about recent differences on some issues such as postponement of the implementation of the radio and television media law."

The same sources confirmed to AL-HAYAH that the talks "also covered the media in connection with the current media chaos in the country, but the talks held on that issue will not result in any quick steps now or measures in the foreseeable future."

On the possibility of a Lebanese-Syrian summit soon for consultation on developments, the sources said that "anything is possible in that respect."

Al-Asad Receives Iraqi Opposition Delegation

JN0208184395 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, and the delegation accompanying him at the al-Rawdah Palace at 1130 today.

Talks dealt with a number of regional affairs.

Press Critical of Israel's Concept of Peace

JN0208133695 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 2 Aug (SANA) — The newspaper AL-BA'TH says that Syria's main concern in the present and future is full national sovereignty over the entire Golan and a complete end of aggression against our pan-Arab soil. The paper adds: This is our strategy from which we will never deviate. For the sake of this strategy, we are ready to remain in confrontation for hundreds of years with the tyrants and aggressors and to resist with honor and pride attempts to inflict harm on our nation and history.

In a commentary published today, the newspaper says: We do not care which party rules our enemy. What concerns us is restoring our full right to our territory which is usurped by the Israeli aggressors.

The paper maintains that the Israeli officials attempts to blackmail us through false claims and allegations will never pay and will never undermine our unwavering position. The Labor Party and the Likud Party should know that whichever of them is in power there is no alternative to restoring our land and that procrastination and maneuvering with the aim of misconstruction and falsification will not succeed.

The paper says that the Israeli implementation of resolutions of the international legitimacy that provide for the inadmissibility of occupying the lands of others by force is the only means to secure a comprehensive, lasting, and sustainable peace. It wonders: Do the Israelis understand that peace is a great word is not restricted to one party alone?

For its part, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH pinpoints Israel's adherence to the policy of unilateral deals, half solutions, and peace by installments which it claims leads to peace because it serves its strategy of putting the region under its hegemony.

The paper says: Syria earlier rejected this distorted formula of peace because it places impediments. Events and facts on the ground have proven the failure of this unilateral formula to stave off the threat of tension and explosion from the region. It notes: Syria, from the outset, has advocated a just, comprehensive peace and called for implementing resolutions of international legitimacy relevant to peace. Syria's stand on peace has been a principled and steady one. At the same time, Syria has confirmed to the whole world its commitment to honor peace conditions, emphasizing that under no circumstance will it cede any of its rights or bargain on its land.

AL-THAWRAH further states: For the sake of rights, land, and dignity, Syria has fought battles of military honor with capability and courage. In the meantime, Syria is engaged in the battle of peace with the same momentum. Syria accepts nothing less than the implementation of the concept of a just and comprehensive peace with all its aspects in full. It strongly holds on to full Israeli withdrawal back to 4 June 1967 lines and it can never depart from this because its positions have always been and will remain linked to land, rights, and dignity.

The paper points out: Israel still has an illusion that through exaggeration and creating a furor on the time factor and its forthcoming elections it can win concessions from Syria. It adds: Israel has missed the fact that Syria is not concerned with these two issues and that the only thing it is concerned with is the accomplishment of peace according to its well-known foundations and terms. Otherwise, Syria, as President al-Asad said, prefers the continuation of the current situation to peace that is tailored according to Israel's wishes. Israel seeks to place the region under its hegemony, however it will never accomplish this goal.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Message to French President on 'Terrorism'

LD3107131995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbini, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, has sent a letter of condolence to Paris addressed to Mr. Jacques Chirac, president of France, on the bomb incident in the Paris Metro:

On behalf of the Afghan nation, the Islamic state, and myself, I express my condolences to you and through you to the families of those who lost their lives in the terrorist attack on the Paris Metro. I would like to note at this opportunity that resolute and effective measures must be taken to stop terrorism, the common enemy of the human race, for the sake of the international community's safety. As a loyal member of the United Nations, the Islamic State of Afghanistan, which has initiated drives against this phenomenon in all international meetings, is ready to play its role in this connection.

Commentary on Russian Official's Visit to Dostam

LD0208185295 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 2 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The political commentator of Radio Message of Freedom writes:

As our compatriots know that recently a Russian delegation headed by Peter Shirshov has arrived in Mazar-e Sharif to meet Gen 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, leader of the National Islamic Movement, and to persuade him to give up his hostility to the Kabul administration and to join it. This is not the first time that the Russians embarks on reconciling the Kabul administration with the National Islamic Movement. The Russians have been working in this direction for some time. In order to restart talks between the Kabul administration and the National Islamic Movement, the delegation met a few days ago with Rabbani and Mas'ud. [passage omitted] Russia and India had in the past too put pressure, through Uzbekistan, on the National Islamic Movement to resume talks with the Kabul administration and to form an alliance with the administration in order to create a gap in the ranks of the High Coordination Council. In the pursuit of this policy the two sides met each other in Tashkent at the mediation of Russians, and some agreements have also been achieved which were made public by Dr Abdurrahman through mass media. But the talks broke down because of the breach of promises and lies by the Kabul administration. And after this the Kabul administration begin attacking the High Coordination Council forces in several northern provinces. Consecutive defeats in Samangan, Jowzjan, Salang, Badghis, and Bamian forced leaders of the Kabul administration to admit their defeats in the military field. Therefore to be rescued from this situation, the Kabul administration asked their masters to once again help them under the pretext of conciliation and talks. [passage omitted] No doubt, the current visit of the Russian delegation to Mazar-e Sharif is to persuade Gen Dostam to become closer to the Kabul administration. This mission had many a time failed and will this time too. God willing, the advance of the High Coordination Council forces will continue until the complete defeat of the believers of the language force, the Kabul administration leaders.

Iranian Minister's Message Delivered to Counterpart

LD0208171995 Tehran IRNA in English 1637 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Aug 2, IRNA — Iran's charge d'affaires to Kabul, Mohammad Reza Forqani handed over a message from Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to his Afghan counterpart Najibollah Lafra'i here Tuesday [2 August].

The message was related to a peace agreement recently signed in tehran by Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov and leader of Islamic Movement of Tajikistan Abdullah Nuri.

It described the agreement as a turning point in Tajik peace talks which would provide the necessary grounds to find a peaceful solution to the Tajik crisis and restore peace and stability in that country as well as in the Central Asia.

The Islamic Republic announced its readiness to cooperate in rapid settlement of Tajik crisis and securing peace and stability in the region, read the message.

Meanwhile, Lafra'i and Forqani discussed expansion of Tehran- Kabul relations and holding the first session of the joint commission in Tehran.

Later in the day, Forqani met with the Afghan minister of Information and Culture and stressed the need for expansion of bilateral cultural cooperation between the two countries.

The Afghan minister requested iran to hold book fairs in Afghanistan and provide the latter with cultural aids.

HCC Forces Reportedly Advance in Northern Salang

LD0208140595 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The High Coordination Council [HCC] forces have achieved satisfactory advances during the Salang highway fighting. According to news agencies, recently the HCC have captured several positions of the warmongers of the Kabul administration in northern Salang as well as achieving satisfactory advances along the highway. The report adds that Mas'ud, head of the Supervisory Council, is extremely worried that if the Salang highway comes under the control of the HCC, his headquarters in Jabal-e Seraj will be threatened and Mas'ud will face serious problems. The report adds that Salang highway is a very important road. Sufi Painda Mohammad, a famous commander of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party], has played an important role in the fighting along Salang highway.

According to another report heavy fighting has taken place between the HCC forces and that of the Kabul administration in Dara-e Suf, Samangan Province, where the Kabul administration has suffered a defeat, and a large quantity of arms and ammunition has been captured by the HCC forces. The report says that both sides have used the Air Force during the fighting but no report has been received about casualties.

Kabul Radio Reports Fighting in Samangan Province

LD0208191895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Koh-e Tas, a strategic position of the Dostam militia, and 15 fortifications around it have been captured yesterday by the Islamic army forces in Samangan province. Quoting sources of the armed forces, BAKHTAR reported that in an operation the Islamic army forces in coordination with the Mojahedin of the region cleared the strategic position of Koh-e Tas and 15 fortifications around it of the Dostam militia yesterday. In the course of this operation dozens of the militia were killed and a large quantity of weapons has been captured. Following the conquest of Koh-e Tas and other fortifications by the Islamic army, the militia lost their morale and are escaping the battle field.

The Islamic army forces have also completely cleared the area of Ninwan in (Roi Doab) district of the Dostam militia.

According to another report four strategic positions of the militia in Andarab district have been captured today by the Islamic army forces. As a result of a successful operation mounted last night and today the villages of Senjetak, Kondeh Sang, (Deh Shanak) and Siah Sang, in Andarab district were captured. Previously the militias using their positions in the villages were firing their heavy weapons into civilian areas. However, after the capturing of those villages security has now been restored.

According to another report a militia offensive in Northern Salang area was repulsed this afternoon by the Mojahedin and the Islamic army forces. In the course of the operation five militia were killed and eight others defected to the Islamic army forces.

Another report from Fariab says that Mohammad Daud, a commander of the Dostam militia, and his eight men joined yesterday the Islamic army's 833rd Brigade.

Paris Paper Discusses Factions, Alliances

95AE0047A Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 16 Jun 95 pp 26-27

[FBIS Translated Text] The "game of nations" has returned to Afghanistan. Current political developments and military preparations warn of a large-scale explosion against the backdrop of internal alliances and new international axes controlled by Moscow—together with Tehran and New Delhi—on one hand and Washington with Pakistani support on the other hand. This time, Saudi Arabia, in an attempt to avert a disaster, has dispatched Prince Turki al-Faysal to convince the warring factions to arrive at an accommodation similar to the "Ta'if agreement" that was concluded with respect to Lebanon.

A long anticipated alliance, predicted by AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, has finally been forged between the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] led by Golboddin Hekmatyar and the ascending Taleban movement. The latter controls the largest percentage of Afghani territory among the main blocks (the Afghani president's alliance controls eight out of 22 provinces, Communist General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam controls six provinces, and the Taleban movement controls 10 provinces in southwest and central Afghanistan).

The Taleban movement—which was established by Islamic law students who received their education in Pakistani religious schools, especially those associated with the Society of Ulema of Islam under the leadership of Mowlawi Fadel Rahman—was able within the space of months to marginalize the key political powers in the Afghani arena, namely Hezb-e Eslami and the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Shi'i [Shiite Unity Party], which lost its leader, 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari, in the latest fighting. However, the Taleban movement has now entered into a bloody conflict with the Afghani president's forces. They have thus given the Afghani opposition a military component to oppose General Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, the de facto defense minister and the president's strongman. The opposition quickly took a back seat to watch the main parties in anticipation of the outcome. After Taleban forces failed to force President Borhanoddin Rabbani to relinquish power and were pushed out of Kabul's southern and western outskirts last March, they shifted their focus to the provinces of Vardak and Lowgar, which are adjacent to the capital. They also continued to threaten the Afghani Government by launching attacks from time to time.

This complicated situation compelled the Taleban movement to seek a new ally to help it end President Rabbani's rule, which it describes as "illegitimate and illegal." The movement appealed to the Hezb-e Eslami, its enemy of yesterday, giving credence to a constant in the Afghani equation, namely that "enemies of yesterday are the truest friends of today."

According to information obtained by AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, the two sides have signed a draft agreement on a military alliance to overthrow President Rabbani's government. However, the secrecy of the agreement has made it difficult to ascertain its dimensions or whether it really exists.

The new alliance signals a clear shift in the movement's position on the parties involved, away from its advocacy of revolutionary purity. Only recently, it described them as criminals and refused to talk with them when Taleban representatives—led by Mowlawi Gholam Rabbani, the right-hand man of the movement's leader, Mowlawi Mohamed 'Omar—participated in the Jalalabad meeting sponsored by the governor of the province, Haji 'Abdol Qadir Khan, to discuss a solution satisfactory to everyone.

Saudi Initiative a la the Lebanese Model

In response to the Afghani opposition's alliance with the Taleban, the Afghani president initiated a vigorous attempt through his international allies in the region—India, Russia, and Iran—to rebuild the bridges that he had burned with the de facto power in northern Afghanistan, General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, the leader of the Uzbeki militias. The president's representatives met with Dostam's representatives twice, in Moscow and Uzbekistan, to resurrect their alliance. However, the negotiations failed. Reliable sources disclosed to AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI that Moscow gave Dostam large sums of Afghani currency, which differs slightly from real currency, and that Dostam promised that he would introduce new currency in the amounts that he had received if an agreement was reached between him and the government, otherwise he would not do so. However, Afghani sources who transact with the financial markets have confirmed to AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI that this currency is now being accepted in the financial milieu.

Clashes and battles between the Kabul government and Dostam have been renewed. Government fighters attacked the general's positions north of the Salang Pass, which connects Kabul with Uzbekistan and runs through areas controlled by Hezb-e Eslami and Dostam, in an attempt to break the isolating stranglehold that has been imposed on the capital for the past two years, though to no avail.

Persons coming from northern Afghanistan state that Dostam's and Mas'ud's groups are preparing for a new round of fighting. Some days ago, the Afghani president moved toward the southwest of the country, to Herat—the stronghold of his ally, General Isma'il Khan, the governor of the province, who is close to Iran—in order to mass his forces and help Khan fight the Taleban in southwest Afghanistan to reduce pressure on the government's positions in and around Kabul.

At this time, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has resumed its efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Afghani conflict and to reconcile the warring factions. The Saudi initiative—led by Prince Turki al-Faysal, the envoy of the custodian of the two holy places—is reminiscent of the kingdom's initiative to solve the Lebanese crisis. In that initiative, key figures of the Lebanese conflict were invited to a conference in al-Ta'if. Prince Turki invited Afghani leaders to a meeting in Jeddah to discuss their disagreements and end the fight for power. Afghani opposition sources view the Saudi initiative as an earnest attempt to reconcile and stabilize the country. Homayun Jarir, an assistant to the prime minister said, "It seems to us from our meetings with Prince Turki that the earnest Saudi interest in fashioning an agreement on a mechanism is consistent with the Afghani people's wishes."

Nonetheless, Jarir emphasized his party's position, which is that the Afghani president must relinquish power and that the composition of the current government must be changed. Prince Turki al-Faysal met with President Rabbani in Kabul and delivered to him a letter from King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz. He also met in Islamabad with leading opposition figures and Pakistani leaders. The latter awarded him the highest Pakistani medal for his substantial efforts to strengthen relations between the two countries.

Moscow Against Washington

The positions and policies of the countries concerned with the Afghanistan problem can be summarized as ranging between support for the maintenance of the status quo and efforts to convince the Afghani parties to accept the international peace plan presented by [UN special envoy to Afghanistan, Mahmoud] Mestiri. Mestiri is expected to arrive shortly in Afghanistan, following his repeated failures to fulfill his promise of the Afghani president's relinquishment of power and the establishment of a "United Nations" government in Kabul. The countries allied with the Afghani president—Russia, India, Iran, and, from a distance, France—support the continuation of the status quo. They also favor strengthening President Rabbani's government and weakening his rivals militarily or pulling them into the political arena; i.e., removing the opposition's teeth so that it never bites again, given that arms and military might always have the last word in a state like Afghanistan. This alliance is an extension of what is happening in the international arena. It emerged coincident with Russia's sale of nuclear reactors to Iran and in keeping with India's traditional hostility toward Pakistan, which is driving it to side with Rabbani with a view toward having an ally in a state neighboring Pakistan that would stand by New Delhi in any armed conflict that could destabilize its northwestern flank. Therefore, India rushed to open a consulate in Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan, on the border with Pakistan, to monitor conditions from there. The quid pro quo was an Indian promise to provide all forms of support to the Rabbani government. However, this initiative failed, because President Rabbani did not extend his authority to Jalalabad.

India has clear influence in the Afghani composite. It is the only neighboring state, after Russia, that stood by the Communists. Therefore, it has its eyes and spies. It fears the return to power of a Pashtun government under the leadership of Hekmatyar, who is known for his hostility toward New Delhi and advocacy of Kashmir's independence, which brings to mind the Indian proverb, "Save us God from the cobra's venom and the Afghanis' revenge." Therefore, the mountains of Afghanistan have been called the "mountains of Hindu Kush," i.e., "the mountains of the Indian killers." As for Moscow, it stands strongly behind the Afghani president for a number of internal and external reasons. Among them are agreements concluded between the two sides on various matters, which Hekmatyar enumerates as follows:

1. Moscow and Rabbani agreed, before he came to power, that none of the Communist officers in sensitive positions would be harmed.
2. The establishment of friendly relations with Moscow's allies in the region, chief among which is India.
3. The purchase of only Russian weapons and ammunition.
4. Noninterference in the regions of Central Asia.
5. Continuation of the printing of Afghani currency in Moscow.

As for Iran, it wishes to support the Tajiki minority out of its fear that the Pashtun majority will gain power, which would mean an end to external interventions, primarily those of Iran. In addition, Iran is worried that the United States and Pakistan are behind the Afghani Taleban movement, which corroborates, in Tehran's view, the existence of an international conspiracy to besiege Iran from the direction of Afghanistan.

Then there is the U.S. axis, which is seeking to reconcile Afghani groups based on an international peace plan to form a neutral, interim government comprising party leaders and independent leaders. However, Afghani opposition leader Golboddin Hekmatyar said, in a statement to AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, that Mestiri's plan is impractical. He elaborated, saying, "It is an effort to select representatives of the provinces to form an advisory council. Who will select or nominate these representatives, and on what basis or criteria? Will all of the parties be satisfied? Hekmatyar added, after a two-hour meeting with the U.S. ambassador in Jalalabad, that "the plan is impractical and unrealistic, and we have so advised the U.S. ambassador." Hekmatyar renewed the opposition's demand that the Afghani president step down and that a government be formed based on an agreement reached by all of the parties through dialogue and mutual understanding to be followed by general elections to produce a popular, elected government.

The U.S. ambassador continued his new initiative by going to Kabul, where he met with Afghani President Borhanoddin Rabbani and his strongman, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, to persuade them to accept the peace plan. However, well-informed sources deem it unlikely that they will do so.

India

U.S. Warned Against Supplying Arms to Pakistan

BK0308080795 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English 31 Jul 95 pp 1,4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has warned the US administration that if it succeeds in pushing a $370 million military package for Islamabad, "India will match Pakistan's striking power."

"If arms are supplied to Pakistan," Mr Mukherjee told The Asian Age here in an exclusive interview, "I'm afraid we shall also have to prepare ourselves."

"We shall also have to match their striking power because we have to keep our defence fully equipped and cannot compromise on our security requirements or the security interests of our country," Mr Mukherjee stated categorically.

India's warning has been "fully conveyed" to the US administration, he said, "but we have to wait for the final outcome in the Congress and the Senate."

India's contention is that nothing should be done to enhance the striking power of Pakistan. "After all, if Pakistan fired a single shot in the last 48 years, that was directed against India," the minister pointed out.

While Mr Mukherjee declined to divulge details of India's plans to shop for arms in the world market, reports from Moscow say a highlevel team of Indian defence officials will visit Russia in late August with a $600 million shopping list.

According to the Moscow Times, the delegation to be led by Indian defence secretary K.A. Nambiar will discuss plans to buy 20 Sukhoi SU-30 fighter bombers for the Indian Air Force and a number of Russian 125-mm MSTA selfpropelled guns, besides the lease of Admiral Gorshkov, a 40,500-ton Soviet built aircraft carrier the Russian Navy plans to decommission within the next five years.

India is also objecting to Pakistan getting a refund on the F16s it paid for before the arms embargo was imposed by the Pressler Amendment. The point is, how is Pakistan going to use that money," Mr Mukherjee said. "If they use that money for literacy or industrial development, we have no problem."

The minister said even a guarantee from Pakistan will have little effect because the refund can always be channeled into arms deals through the backdoor.

It is this point of view that India is striving to impress upon the US administration, individual Congressman and Senators, various foundations and other opinion makers "whenever and wherever we are coming in contact with them," Mr Mukherjee said. Even NRIs, "a powerful group in the US," are lobbying their representatives on the issue, he added.

Stating that "there is no question of a hard line or soft line" on the issue, the minister said India has not yet given up hopes of the US administration's proposal of a "compromise" arms package falling through. "We cannot rush to the conclusion that our views have had no impact on the US," he said. "Let us wait for the Senate and Congress to vote."

"In fact, the Pressler Amendment was brought with a view to helping Pakistan," Mr Mukherjee pointed out. "Pakistan was a party to it and a beneficiary of this amendment, because they not only got arms sale but other support as well from the US."

The problem started when the US President was not in a position to certify that Pakistan does not have nuclear manufacturing capability, he said. "Is the US in a position to say today that Pakistan does not have this capability? So where is the question of amending the Pressler Amendment," the minister said.

Commentary Urges Deployment of Prithvi Missiles

BK0308085295 Delhi THE PIONEER in English
2 Aug 95 p 8

[Commentary by Brahma Chellaney: "Rao talks tough but acts meekly on the Prithvis"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As the range and scale of missile threats to India increase, so do the chinks in our national defences. The country needs to build an effective missile deterrent capability in the shortest possible time, yet the Government still fights shy of operationally deploying an elementary ballistic missile system, the Prithvi, and scheduling the next night test of the intermediate-range Agni.

The missile programme has raked up a string of successes since 1987 despite being a principal target of national and multilateral technology controls of the advanced industrial nations. Today, however, it is primarily handicapped not by external technological barriers but by a political "go slow" dictated by narrowly perceived foreign policy concerns. Despite all the brave talk of the Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues, India does not have a demonstrated capability at present to meet its minimal missile-deterrent requirements. At the rate at which flight tests are being conducted, it will be several years before the country will have a credible missile deterrent in operation to meet the multitude of threats it faces.

As Beijing expands its armoury of ground to-ground and sea-launched missiles and flexes its muscles, it is important to remember that India has yet to test a missile system that can effectively counter the operational range to be able to strike China's key civilian and industrial assets. The recent Chinese missiles exercise, although intended primarily to intimidate Taiwan, sought to convey a broader message to other neighbours that China has the operational capability to accurately launch missiles of different ranges at any time.

All the exigent missile threats India confronts are of Chinese making, and the Prithvi is designed to deal with only one of them — the solid-fuelled M-11s in Pakistan. The Prithvi cannot counter Saudi Arabia's Chinese-supplied CSS-2s, which can strike targets in more than half of India, or Iran's Chinese-origin missiles. The Prithvi programme had to be accelerated after credible evidence surfaced in 1991 over the presence of M-11s in Pakistan. The Prithvis are now available for operational deployment, but the Government has balked, even as Beijing continues its missile assistance to Pakistan in an effort to prop up its ally against India. The recent transfers of missile components, reported by US intelligence, suggest that China is now trying to help Pakistan to locally produce the M-11s.

External pressure

The Clinton Administration has worked hard to sweep the M-11 transfers under the carpet in order not to impose major sanctions against China and Pakistan under a domestic law. The Prime Minister, Mr PV Narasimha Rao, by sidestepping the Prithvis' operational deployment, is helping Washington to do just that. If the Prithvis are openly deployed, the M-11s will come out from their storage sites in Pakistan sooner than later, unravelling the Clinton team's strategy. Washington, besides seeking to deter missile deployments on the subcontinent, is eager to shore up Ms Benazir Bhutto's wobbly Government and try and build stable Sino-US relations which, in the recent words of the State Department, "are among the important anywhere in the world for the future of the American people."

From a military standpoint, India does not need to forward deploy the mobile Prithvis, which are among the most accurate short-range missiles in the world. Since the missiles have been designed chiefly for conventional deterrence, the country's defence objectives will be met by the development and production of different models of the Prithvis. If India were to come under an M-11 attack, the Prithvis could be quickly transported to border launch sites to wreak severe punishment on Pakistan. However, from both a foreign policy and national security viewpoint, the delayed commercial production of the Prithvis and Mr Narasimha Rao's hesitation to operationally deploying the missiles are bad.

They send a message to the rest of the world that a large country like India is not only susceptible to external pressure, but that such pressure can help delay the introduction of a basic but essential weapon system for conventional deterrence even when similar systems are proliferating in India's neighbourhood. A dangerous precedent is being set. US officials such as the Under Secretary of State, Mr Lynn Davis, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Mr Robert Einhorn, have made no secret of the pressure mounted on India to desist from overtly deploying the Prithvis. When India balks at deploying the Prithvis which are of no strategic significance to an extra-regional power such as the US, it is opening itself to tremendous external pressure on the Agni and the futuristic Surya intercontinental ballistic missile.

Waiting for deployment

There is a growing congruence of US and Indian national interests, and it makes sense for Washington and New Delhi to forge closer economic and strategic ties. The development of these relations, however, does not demand that India come to the rescue of the Clinton Administration on the M-11 issue. Washington is a prisoner of its own law, the Missile Technology Control Act (MTCA), which demands severe sanctions if complete missile systems (Category 1) are transferred. After successfully selling the MTCA controls to the multilateral Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), Washington, which finds itself in an embarrassing position of not wanting to invoke the sanctions legislation against China and Pakistan. Nevertheless, it has recently gone around and gained the agreement Russia, Brazil, South Africa and Ukraine the guidelines of MTCR, a cartel lacking international legitimacy that currently views India as its number one target.

For four years, Washington has sought to turn a blind eye to its own intelligence report on the transfers of M-11s to Pakistan. Eager to woo China, it lifted last October even the weak Category II trade sanctions imposed in August 1993, two years after Beijing itself acknowledged, without identifying the missiles, that it had shipped to Islamabad "a limited number of short-range ballistic missiles that do not violate the MTCR". US intelligence has now provided photographic evidence of the crated M-11s and their launch vehicles, yet the Secretary of State, Mr Warren Christopher, says that despite the "fairly large body of evidence", a determination that Pakistan has the M-11s cannot be made at present.

It is clear that as long as the M-11s are not deployed, Washington will not consider sanctions on the specious plea that the available evidence is not incontrovertible. This is where India's cooperation becomes crucial for Washington to prevent a diplomatic snowball it dreads: Islamabad taking the M-11s out of its burrows in response to Prithvi deployments, compelling Washington to impose tough sanctions and derail its relations with China and Pakistan.

It is high time the Prime Minister reversed his "talk tough, act meek" policy on the Prithvis. By not overtly deploying the Prithvis, Mr Rao is bailing out the Clinton Administration from imposing major sanctions against India's two principal adversaries. India should do what its security demands. The US should be fit to stew in its own diplomatic gravy.

Mukherjee Views Supply of Arms to Pakistan

BK0208082995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi has told Washington that Islamabad is supporting and supplementing terrorism not only in Kashmir, but in other countries also. The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, told PTI in an interview in New Delhi that Washington's assessment that Pakistan is a moderate state is not correct. Mr. Mukherjee said supply of sophisticated arms to Pakistan will create a serious power imbalance in the region.

Youth Congress-I Workers Rally Against Pakistan

BK0208054595 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 1 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Youth Congress-I workers today held demonstrations in different parts of the country to protest against Pakistan's anti-India activities and the proxy war in Kashmir. They burned effigies of the Pakistani prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, and shouted slogans asking Pakistan to desist from anti-India tirades. Reports on Youth Congress-I demonstrations against Pakistan have come in from Jaipur, Bhopal, Bombay, Hyderabad, Madras, and other centers.

Rao Urges States To Attract Foreign Capital

BK0208112095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister asserted in the Lok Sabha today that larger inflow of foreign capital after the economic liberalization has not worsened the regional imbalance in investment. Replying to supplementaries, Mr. Narasimha Rao said the states have to take initiatives to attract foreign capital as the center cannot help them in channelizing foreign investment to any particular region. He expressed the hope that the setting up of growth centers will help in creating infrastructure in various states, thereby minimizing regional imbalances.

The prime minister said steps have been taken to protect undue exploitation and depletion of natural resources by the liberal industrialization. Mr. Rao said the center is promoting infrastructural industries like power plants in the northeastern region to facilitate industrialization there. He also informed the house that over 35,000 crore rupees foreign investment and domestic investment amounting to about 450,000 crore have resulted in larger employment generation.

Forces Said Deployed To Trace Kidnapped Tourists

BK0308091795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Administration has ordered the closure of all educational institutions in Kashmir valley till Monday [31 July] because of floods. An official spokesman said in Srinagar that more than 400 villages in the valley have been affected by the floodwaters. In Jammu region, several villages have been cut off by the floodwaters of the river Chenab. According to an agency report, the death toll in the current floods has gone up to 94.

The Rajya Sabha was informed today that the contingents of the security forces have been deployed in Jammu and Kashmir to trace the kidnapped foreign nationals. The minister of state in the prime minister's office, Mr. Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi, said in a written reply all necessary precautions are being taken to ensure that the safety of the hostages is not jeopardized.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the curfew was relaxed in Bhadarwah Town of Doda District for two hours this morning. No untoward incident was reported during the relaxation period. The curfew was imposed yesterday as a precautionary measure following heavy exchange of fire between the militants and the security forces.

Iran

Velayati 'Confident' Bosnia To Be Saved

LD0208180795 Tehran IRNA in English 1716 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said in Mashhad today that the Islamic Republic of Iran was spearheading efforts to rally support for the oppressed Bosnian Muslims.

Velayati, who made the remark after taking part in a massive rally to protest the crimes in Bosnia of the Serb Aggressors, said based on guidelines of the leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the defense for Islam, Islamic values and the Muslim world was the prime source of concern for Iran's Foreign Ministry staff.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran considered it an honour to be "the principal defender of Muslims, especially the oppressed Bosnian Muslims."

Velayati lauded Bosnian Muslims as "frontiermen of Islam" in the heart of Europe and said Islam was rooted firmly in Bosnia for the 500 long years and has endured communist colonialism for 50 years.

He said that in his visit to Bosnia this week, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic had candidly announced that the sin of the Bosnians in the eyes of their enemies was their adherance to Islam.

Velayati, referring to the recent decision of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, said finally after a lapse of three years Muslim countries, on the initiative of Iran, declared as "invalid and illegal" the United Nations embargo on Bosnia.

Feeling confident that Bosnia would be saved in view of the hard-fought victories of Bosnian people's struggles and the support of the Muslim world's support for them, he said Iranian officials never had any faith in "utterly false" statements of certain western powers, especially NATO, which feigned support for Bosnian Muslims.

The minister regretted that on one hand the Serbs commit crimes and on the other hand international communities, influential powers and the United Nations turn a blind eye to these crimes, thereby encouraging the Serbs.

He condemned the disarmament of Bosnians in the so-called safe havens and said that on just one occasion the Serbs executed over 1,600 Bosnian captives in Srebrenica.

He deplored that certain governments, who claimed human rights and peace on the international arena, have acted selectively in Bosnia.

These governments, elaborated Velayati, interfered under the pretext of human rights anywhere they had their vested interests, but where ever they had no interest or their interests necessitated them not to step in, they turn away shamelessly.

On Western efforts to decieve world public opinion, Velayati said, today Muslims and even conscientious European and Western public opinion which adhered to humanitarian values, voiced opposition to the present conditions in Bosnia.

Official: Bosnian Embargo Contradicts UN Charter

LD0208181595 Tehran IRNA in English
1726 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad (Khorasan), Aug. 2, IRNA — Iranian Ambassador to Bosnia, Mohammad Taherian said here on Wednesday [2 August] that the arms embargo against Bosnia is in contradiction with one of the stipulations of the United Nations charter on self-defence.

In an interview with IRNA, he said fall of the U.N.-designated safe havens is neither a victory for the Serb aggressors nor a defeat for the Muslim defenders.

"Rather, it added a dark folio to the U.N. file," he remarked.

Taherian said the world body has fulfilled none of its responsibilities in Bosnia. The inaction of the United Nations and certain European states and the U.S., contributed to escalation of the Serb crimes against the Muslims, he added.

He hoped that the awakened conscience of the world will take practical action to help vindicate the rights of Bosnian people.

UN Retreat from Zepa, Need To Help Muslims Viewed

NC0308062695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0345 GMT 3 Aug 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] News agencies have reported that the United Nations stated yesterday that 150 blue berets who were responsible for safeguarding peace and supervising the Zepa safehaven are leaving the city. Zepa, in eastern Bosnia, which was occupied by the criminal Serbs about a week ago despite the presence of the UN blue berets and was the scene of indescribable human tragedy, is now facing more massacres and crimes against the Muslims by the Serbs, far from any international supervision of the Serbs' activities.

One of the most important reasons UN officials, namely the UN secretary general, put forward for disagreeing with strong military action against the Serbs to prevent the occupation of the safehavens has always been that such an operation threatens the lives of the blue berets and the UN observers in the safehavens, who may be taken hostage by the Serbs. But these forces—especially in the safehavens—have shown only silence and inaction toward Serb crimes and their ability to safeguard the security of the safehavens has been nonexistent.

The only outcome of the presence of the blue berets in the safehavens in Bosnia has been to prevent any effective attempt by international society to stop the massacres and bloodshed and the occupation of Muslim territory.

The bloody occupation of the safehavens of Srebrenica and Zepa by the Serbs, followed by threats against the other safehavens, such as Bihac and Gorazde, show that the Serbs are now advancing their plan to create a greater Serbia, with the support of the foreign powers, without any concern or fear of effective reaction by the world, and in the absence of effective international supervision of their crimes. If no immediate step is taken to force them to stop their crimes, international society will witness even more savagery and crime by the Serbs in Bosnia.

The responsibility for safeguarding peace and international security, which has been assigned to the United Nations and its Security Council by the UN Charter, dictates immediate measures to prevent fresh human crimes in Bosnia. Otherwise international society should lift the arms sanctions on the Bosnian Muslims according to Article 51 of the UN Charter and recognize the right of the Muslim Bosnian nation and government to defend themselves.

The Islamic countries too should understand their heavy responsibility to the Bosnian Muslims and double their efforts to lift the arms sanction on the Muslims and help them to vindicate their right to defend themselves.

Tehran's Citizens Rally To Support Bosnia

LD0208162095 Tehran IRNA in English
1531 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA — Citizens of Tehran here on Wednesday [2 August] expressed their full support for the oppressed Muslims of Bosnia.

Issuing a 13-point resolution at the end of their rally in front of the United Nations office in Tehran, the demonstrators said that the heart-rendering tragedy of genocide of the Muslim people of Bosnia, making them homeless, torturing them because of their Islamic identity, the shameful silence of the world powers and encouraging and supporting the enemy despite the arms embargo can only be interpreted as taking vengence on Islam and dominance of the culture of tyranny and the law of the jungle.

The resolution described the Western states, especially the U.S., U.K. and France as the supporters of the Serb aggressors in their criminal actions.

"We should defend our fellow Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina as an Islamic obligation and shall spare no effort to fulfil our humanitarian commitment," it said.

The resolution said that the Serbian crimes has met with the encouragement of the United Nations Security Council and its permenent members as well as other international organizations and Western states.

The resolution urged the UN secretary-general, Butrus Butrus-Ghali to resign and stand trial along with other war criminals before the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Iranian nation demands the government and other Islamic governments to try to stop any country helping the serbs overtly or covertly through introducing them by mass media and break economic relations with such states, it said.

The resolution appealed to religious leaders of the world of Christianity to take heed of the voice of oppression of the defenceless people in Bosnia and called on foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to do their utmost to protect Bosnian people.

Point 10 of the resolution said Iranian people organizes the corps for protection of Bosnia-Herzegovina with the volunteer forces and demanded other Islamic states to follow suit and dispatch forces to Bosnia to replace the so-called United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) who even could not protect themselves.

Another point of the resolution appealed to the Islamic states to contribute part of their national budgets to Bosnian people in addition to boosting defence capability of Bosnia.

The demonstators called on the Islamic states to opt out of the United Nations if the UN continues its support for the Serb aggressors and set up a separate Islamic united nations.

Ministry Official, French Envoy Discuss Bosnia

LD0108183295 Tehran IRNA in English
1720 GMT 1 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 1, IRNA — French charge d'affaires to Tehran, Francois Girault said here on Tuesday [1 August] Paris believed that a decisive action should be taken to make the Serbs accept a political solution to Bosnian crisis.

In a meeting with Rasul Mohajer, in charge of the Foreign Ministry's Department for Central and Northern Europe, Girault said President Jacques Chirac of France has offered the deterrent measure of airstrike to prevent Serbian assualts upon the safe havens in Bosnia.

Mohajer said the international community should explore any options to stave off further aggression against Bosnian Muslims.

Iran has focused its efforts to help resolve Bosnian crisis, he said.

Foreign Ministry Officials on Relations With Iraq

*NC0208174095 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
18 Jul 95 p 7*

[Interviews with 'Ali Khorram, senior adviser to the foreign minister and head of the delegation to Iraq, and Mohammad Javad Zarif, deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs, by Homeyra Hoseyni-Yeganeh; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hoseyni-Yeganeh] Seven years have passed since Iran accepted Resolution 598. But still some paragraphs of the resolution have not been fully implemented. Why have all the paragraphs, especially Paragraph Three on the POW's, not been implemented?

[Khorram] In relation with Paragraph Three, according to Article 118 of the Geneva Convention, once two warring sides accept a cease-fire they should exchange their POW's. After accepting the resolution, Iran and Iraq held two years of direct and indirect talks until Mordad 1369 [month beginning 23 July 1990] and, thanks to both countries, most of the POW's were freed in a month. At that time about 40,000 Iranian and 43,000 Iraqi POW's were freed. But then the process stopped when the Persian Gulf war broke out. Since 1991, although relations between the two countries have continued, no agreement has been reached on the POW's. This stems from the lack of trust between the two sides. We proposed that fewer POW's be freed in exchange for more Iraqi POW's. But we did not succeed.

In recent talks with Iraqi officials, Iran again proposed that the Iraqi side reply to documentary evidence Iran has that there are 4,000 Iranian POW's in Iraq.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] In your remarks, you referred to the absence of mutual trust. What is the main reason for this? Do you not think this distrust has cast a darker shadow on the Iranian side than it has the Iraqi side, since our country was the victim of eight years of aggression by the Iraqi forces?

[Khorram] The main reason for this distrust was the eight-year war. After the war many factors worked to maintain this distrust. More mutual trust is needed to solve the problem of the POW's.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] An international organization should oversee the POW operation and confirm the number of POW's on both sides. What is the opinion of the International Red Cross on this?

[Khorram] The Red Cross has accepted Iraq's official stance and believes Iran has no POW's in Iraq. Iran has submitted documents saying there are around 4,000 POW's in Iraq. But we have not seen any action by the Red Cross.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] Officials have different opinions about the number of Iranian POW's in Iraq. Some say there are none, while others say there are several thousand POW's there. Where does this difference stem from?

[Khorram] There are Iranian POW's in Iraq. But there are disagreements on their number. This problem can be solved only when Iraqi officials answer our questions. One official may lump the POW's and MIA's together while another may refer to them as two different numbers. This explains the difference in numbers.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] According to Resolution 598, both sides should exchange all their POW's or one POW for one POW. Has any agreement been reached on this?

[Khorram] No explanation has been given in Resolution 598. But the Vienna Convention states that once a cease-fire is established, all POW's must be exchanged. In line with this convention, all Iranian and Iraqi POW's must be exchanged under the International Red Cross' supervision.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] In their statements, officials always list the POW issue as the basis for improving Iran-Iraq relations. Does this still apply?

[Khorram] The most important problem casting a shadow on Iran-Iraq relations is the POW's, then the MIA's. Finding a solution to the POW problem is a humanitarian issue that should be studied immediately. Iranian officials are extremely worried about the POW's and MIA's.

Of course this issue has always existed for countries that have been involved in a war. Even now Korea is still involved in the problem of MIA's and POW's dating back 45 years.

But we are taking all the necessary steps to find all the POW's who fought for their country's honor and respect to return them to their families. The Islamic Republic of Iran is a religious country and based on our beliefs the salvation of one person is tantamount to the salvation of an entire society.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] Reports sent by Iran and Iraq to the United Nations include thousands of cases of cease-fire violations. How many violations are there and what are the reasons for them? Does this mean the first paragraph of the resolution on ceasing military operations is not being fully applied?

[Khorram] Ceasing military operations as it appears in Resolution 598 means ceasing conventional and official operations, which was done one month after the resolution—on 19 August 1988. But the two countries' forces are still deployed along the borders.

According to the agreement reached, the Iranian and Iraqi forces are 1 km behind the border line inside their own territories, something that has also been confirmed by the United Nations. But then, according to the cease-fire regulations, entering the buffer zone (a 2-km corridor along the 1,240 km of border), setting up a barricade, or deploying heavy arms in this area are all cease-fire violations. These are some of the several thousand cease-fire violations reported to the United Nations.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] But some assaults are on border villages and people.

[Khorram] The violations include such cases. Iraqi and monafeqin [hypocrites—pejorative term for the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] forces pass the buffer zone and assault installations and people. These are the cases that are reported.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] What steps have been taken in relation with the implementation of Paragraph Seven of the resolution on determining compensation and reconstruction?

[Khorram] According to the resolution the United Nations had to send delegations to both countries to determine the damage. In 1990 and 1991 a delegation headed by the [UN] deputy secretary general visited Iran several times and inspected the border areas and the war-stricken cities, determined the amount of damage, and reported to the secretary general and the Security Council. Based on this report the direct damage inflicted on the Islamic Republic of Iran was estimated at $99 billion and the indirect damage at $150 billion. But Iranian officials' estimates were higher. Nevertheless we respected the UN formula and accepted it.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] What steps have been taken to determine the damage inflicted on Iraq?

[Khorram] The UN delegation's mission in Iraq coincided with the allied attack on Iraq. Since the damage inflicted by the allied forces in Iraq was greater than the damage inflicted during the Iran-Iraq war, the UN delegation could not determine the damage or tell which war caused which damage.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] Estimates of the damage were published years ago, and naturally Iraq must pay compensation. What mechanisms for compensation are envisaged in the resolution?

[Khorram] Since Iraq started the war, Iraq is responsible for compensating. But Resolution 598 envisages no formula for compensation. Paragraph Six discusses the aggressor. But unlike the resolutions on the Persian Gulf crisis, it does not state how the compensation should be paid.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] This shows a shortcoming and a weak point in the resolution. Is this not because of the Security Council's policy of double standards on world problems?

[Khorram] This is definitely so. The permanent and nonpermanent members of the Security Council did not have good relations with the Islamic Republic at that time. But when it came to the Persian Gulf war, they were the ones involved in the war and who had interests in it. so they determined the method of paying compensation.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] What mechanism for paying compensation is being considered?

[Khorram] The country's high-ranking officials should decide on this, when, and how the issue should be pursued.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] In your talks with the Iraqi side, did you discuss compensation?

[Khorram] No.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] Do you think one of the reasons the resolution has not been fully implemented is the change in the world power structure? This structure is different today from what it was in 1988. After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the United Nations actually became an instrument in the hands of the West.

[Khorram] Almost all of Resolution 598 has been implemented in a way. The rest concerns the POW's, pending issues between the two countries, and regional security.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] Paragraph Eight of the resolution on Persian Gulf security, one of the most important paragraphs, has not been implemented. The issue here is what are the relations between Iran and Iraq, since accepting the resolution and not fully implementing it means "neither war nor peace."

[Khorram] Legally, Iran and Iraq are not involved in active hostility; a cease-fire has been established. But they have not yet returned to complete peace, something that will be achieved with the full implementation of the resolution.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] As far as Persian Gulf security is concerned, what discussions have been held with the sides?

[Khorram] In relation with Persian Gulf security, the Persian Gulf countries have taken a wrong path and have been drawn toward the big powers. Iraq too is under suspicion, having fomented two wars. Iraq implies there is a need for cooperation. Iran does not worry about Iraq's inclusion in a regional security plan, because we have no defense problems. But since the six Persian Gulf countries cannot defend themselves, they are worried. We hope Iraq will behave in a way that removes suspicion and, instead of inclining toward the powerful countries, the regional countries will move toward a regional security arrangement so that all the countries can live with peace, stability, and constructiveness.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] We heard on the news that the talks between the Iranian and Iraqi delegations discussed the extradition of the leader of the monafeqin. What was the reaction?

[Khorram] The monafeqin do not constitute a major element in Iran-Iraq relations. But their molestation of the nation is doomed to fail, like the operations by all the groups that are working against national interests and are involved in espionage. The Iraqis do not respect them. They use them as an instrument and, when no need for them is felt, they will be thrown in the garbage can.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] How will the Islamic Republic treat those monafeqin who return?

[Khorram] The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly extended amnesty and has called on them to return, to give guarantees, and to be with their families. In recent years some have returned and are leading a normal life with their families.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] Occasionally there are political and news overtures by Baghdad officials concerning the Iraqi airplanes in Iran. What discussions have been held in relation with this?

[Khorram] The Iraqi airplanes issue goes back to the second war in the Persian Gulf. We have not closed the case of the first war to close the case of the second war.

The Iraqi planes issue falls within the framework of the Security Council resolutions and the sanctions committee and cannot be discussed until the sanctions are lifted.

At an opportune time officials will make a decision on how to confront this issue. When Iran-Iraq relations are established, the way toward discussing this issue will also be paved. But we have not reached the point in relations where we might propound this issue.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] Does the presence of Turkish troops in northern Iraq not violate the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity?

[Khorram] The presence of foreign forces in northern Iraq violates Iraq's territorial integrity. Iran has declared its stand on this. This was stated by the president in a telephone conversation he had with Demirel during which he also defended Iraq's territorial integrity. However, after the conflicts of the Kurds in northern Iraq in 1991, the area above the 36th parallel was declared a no-fly zone for Iraq. Since then, Iraq has been unable to exercise sovereignty over the northern part of its country. This inability has led to the violation of its sovereignty and its territorial integrity and to tension, instability, and the infiltration of terrorism from northern Iraq across the borders of the three neighboring countries. This was examined during the tripartite meeting of Iran, Syria, and Turkey. As long as Iraq is unable to exercise sovereignty over the northern part of its territory, this tripartite group will try to prevent the infiltration of terrorism and to establish peace and stability. Among these efforts, we can point to Iran's efforts to find a peace agreement among the Kurdish forces in northern Iraq. The groups of Talabani and Barzani also recently asked Iran to mediate. The outcome of this will be the establishment of peace and stability in the region. That is what we are trying to accomplish.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] In view of the presence of foreign forces in Iraq and in the region and the existence of some domestic unrest, how do you envisage the future of Iraqi rule?

[Khorram] Northern Iraq will, at any rate, return to Iraq. Iran strongly supports Iraq's territorial integrity.

Whatever regime comes to power in Iraq, it should work to safeguard Iraq's territorial integrity and to establish peace and stability.

No group will be able to form a government in northern Iraq. History shows that whenever anyone resorts to arms, they have met with the opposition of all four countries—Iran, Syria, Turkey, and Iraq—so that these efforts gradually die down after a while.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] In the talks between the Iranian and Iraqi delegations, were any discussions held on the Iranian citizens and the 'ulema who imprisoned there?

[Khorram] Since 1990 we have constantly been discussing the Iranian citizens living in Iraq and the Islamic 'ulema—both Iranian and non-Iranian—and we have requested their release from prison. Also, Iran has requested that the Islamic 'ulema living in Iraq be respected. Of course, these talks have not ended and we hope that within the framework of Paragraph 4 of the resolution, understanding will be reached on all pending matters.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] Have any discussions been held on the Shiites in southern Iraq?

[Khorram] The Shiites in the south are tribes who live in the Iraqi swamps. They have always had disputes with the central government. We think that any government that comes in Baghdad must treat the Shiites, the Kurds, and the Sunnis well in order to safeguard the country's territorial integrity. Sooner or later, the Baghdad Government will reconcile with the Shiites in the south. Contrary to Iraq which has tried constantly in the past to interfere in Iran's domestic affairs and to instigate the Sunni and Arab minority against the [Iranian] central government, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that within Iraq's borders all races and groups should live in peace and tranquility.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] When will Dr. Velayati's visit to Iraq take place?

[Khorram] Iran is still waiting for an answer from Iraq on some points concerning the POW's. As soon as these answers are received, we are ready to send a delegation to Baghdad.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] What is the current level of relations between the two countries and how do you assess future relations?

[Khorram] The two countries currently have relations at the level of charges d'affaires. We are currently in the process of suspending hostilities. A bilateral border pact based on goodneighborliness has been signed. If this declaration of commitment by Iraq is coupled with deeds, the two countries will definitely have good relations. But if Baghdad tries to violate it, a conflict will definitely ensue. Of course, Iraq has seen what Iranian soldiers and combatants can do in battle. We hope that such a situation will never arise between the two countries and that there will be perpetual peace and stability on the Iraqi border so that the Iraqi people can start to reconstruct their country in tranquility after two wars.

There are signs in Iraq that they are fed up with the past and want to live in an atmosphere of friendship with Iran and to have normal relations with Tehran so that Iranian and Iraqi citizens can freely come and go and so that friendly relations will be re- established between the two nations. Iran and Iraq have many things in common; there is no reason for a conflict between them, unless there are miscalculations—which is what the Iraqis experienced in the past. There is no need for them to experience it once again.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] Unfortunately seven years after the passage of [UN] Resolution 598, Paragraph 3 on the complete exchange of POW's has not yet been implemented. What is the reason for this, and what steps have recently been taken in this regard?

[Zarif] The presence of a considerable number of Iranian POW's in Iraq is the main obstacle to an expansion of Iranian-Iraqi relations. For the sake of goodneighborliness we have always wanted to have good relations with Iraq. But unfortunately, the failure to solve the problem of POW's is impeding this process.

At the bilateral talks, the Iranian delegation proposed that the two countries give a count of the POW's, that two committees be formed to study the MIA issue, and that bodies be searched for. We are waiting for an answer from the Iraqi side. If the answer is positive, effective and positive steps will be taken to solve the POW problem and overcome the obstacles to expanding bilateral relations.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] What did the Iranian delegation propose to the Iraqi side?

[Zarif] Iran's proposals for a complete solution to the POW problem include that both sides give a precise count of the number of POW's they hold, that the MIA issue be examined, and that searches be conducted for the bodies of the MIA's.

At various junctures, Iran has given the Red Cross and the Iraqi side documents concerning the POW's. If an acceptable answer is received from the Iraqi side, more documents will be supplied. But unfortunately, we have not yet received a suitable answer. Therefore, we have not yet given the Iraqi side all the documents that we have.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] Why has the atmosphere at Iran-Iraq talks changed so?

[Zarif] The Iraqi side must realize that the POW issue cannot be used as a political weapon. The POW issue is a humanitarian issue. A large number of families on both sides are suffering. This is the Islamic Republic's opinion of the issue, which has been repeatedly stated to the Iraqi side. But it is difficult to tell how the Iraqi side looks at this matter.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] An international organization definitely must supervise this POW exchange. What is the International Red Cross' opinion of the number of Iranian POW's in Iraq?

[Zarif] Unfortunately, because of the methods used by the Iraqi rulers during the war, the Red Cross has been unable to register the names of all the Iranian POW's in Iraq. Because of some of its legal opinions, this organization considers itself to be limited to acting only on the basis of the number of POW's who are listed. A brief glance shows us that by the end of the war, Iraq had registered the names of 13,000 POW's. By the time the exchanges of POW's began, some 19,000 names were registered. But only 38 [as published] POW's were returned. This shows that a large number of the Iranian POW's in Iraq were not registered; this nonregistration of the names of these Iranian POW's is creating problems for the Red Cross' efforts.

We think that the Red Cross has not carried out its duties on the issue of the Iranian POW's in Iraq.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] Different numbers have been cited regarding our POW's. On how many POW's has the Iranian delegation submitted documents and how many POW's may still be in Iraq?

[Zarif] In view of the Iraqi regime's approach, the responsibility for submitting documents on the Iranian POW's in Iraq is extremely complicated. We have so far tendered quite a few documents to the Red Cross and the Iraqi side. It has always been stated that these documents do not represent the total number of our POW's and MIA's in Iraq, but that they are just a start. Favorable conditions for submitting more documents have not yet been created by Iraq.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] Are there any positive signs that the POW problem will be solved, and can you promise anything to the POW's families?

[Zarif] Fortunately, over the past few months there have been more positive signs of possible interest by the Iraqi Government in a more reasonable stand on the POW issue, and probably there is a chance for progress in the talks.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] Despite the identification of the aggressor in the war and the estimation of war damages by the United Nations, no steps have been taken so far to furnish the necessary resources for reconstruction. Why?

[Zarif] The two issues of identifying the aggressor and estimating the damages on both sides, and furnishing the necessary funds for reconstruction are dealt with in Resolution 598. The identification of the aggressor is covered in Paragraph 6 of the resolution. The UN secretary-general has tendered a report to the Security Council, identifying the Iraqi regime as the aggressor. This has legal repercussions that should be followed up.

Also, a UN delegation has examined the damage resulting directly from the war. But the estimates by our officials include all the damage inflicted by the war. Actually, the United Nations has not included the indirect damage and damage to our military; it estimates the direct damage at $100 billion. They have been unfair in this because they failed to state the full amount, taking into consideration the time factor.

The second part of Paragraph 7 on the need to mobilize international funds for reconstruction unfortunately has also not been implemented because of American pressures in the United Nations, since the implementation of this paragraph calls for international cooperation. Iran has consistently followed up on this matter. Butrus-Ghali too has assigned a special representative for the implementation of this paragraph. But unfortunately that representative has been unable to furnish the necessary resources from international monetary-financial resources and the powerful developed countries. We expect the UN secretary general to follow up on this issue and to pay more attention to it. Of course, the reason why no attention is paid to Paragraph 7 may be because of the UN's extensive activities in other critical areas. But this stand is not justifiable.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] Of course, the United Nations can do something if it wants to. For example, in the Persian Gulf crisis, which came after the imposed war, the necessary funds for reconstruction were envisaged. Do you not think that the absence of a mechanism for this is a weak point in Resolution 598?

[Zarif] There is no doubt that Resolution 598 cannot be compared with Resolutions 661 and 678, which clearly stipulate the sources from which funds must be furnished.

For example, Resolution 582, which clearly speaks about aggression for the first time, was approved six years after the Iran-Iraq war, while Resolution 660 on Kuwait was issued only six hours after the aggression took place. These incredible differences show the different approaches taken by the United Nations based on the political stands of various countries. Some believe that the Kuwaiti crisis was the beginning of a new round of UN activities. But these people should look at the Bosnian problem and compare the blatant differences in the UN's approach to the Persian Gulf crisis and the Bosnian crisis. The safe havens in Bosnia have now fallen or are on the verge of falling. The United Nations was aware this might happen from the start, but it did not take any steps to prevent it.

This shows how wrong it is to think that the United Nations entered a new phase of operations after the Persian Gulf war.

The United Nations can play a more important role in the new international system, which is in the process of transition. But it is wrong to think that the Kuwaiti crisis was created so that the United Nations could play a more global role.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] What steps have been taken in relation to Paragraph 8 of Resolution 598 concerning Persian Gulf security?

[Zarif] This paragraph has not yet been implemented. Iran has always paid great attention to the issue of Persian Gulf security. In 1986—at the peak of the imposed war, when the Iraqi regime was trying to spread the war to the Persian Gulf with the war of the tankers—Iran emphasized the need for a Persian Gulf security system. Iran always considered the presence of foreign fleets and powers as major factors in endangering Persian Gulf security. A clear example of this was the downing of the Iranian passenger plane over the Persian Gulf.

Of course, the existence of border disputes in the southern part of the Persian Gulf could be a factor for tension in the region (like the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait). But there are vast possibilities for cooperation among the Persian Gulf countries in all fields. Iran has always put forth proposals on regional security. The principles governing these proposals are respect for international laws and conventions, cooperation instead of rivalry, and the participation of all the countries. We believe that the only way to regional security is through collective participation. Paragraph 8 of the resolution is also within this context.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] What steps has the UN taken in implementation of this paragraph?

[Zarif] The United Nations has done much of anything about it.

[Hoseyni-Yeganeh] Has the issue of international sanctions on Iraq delayed the implementation of Paragraph 8 of the resolution?

[Zarif] Probably one of the factors affecting the UN efforts is the Iraqi problem. We believe that no security system should be based on excluding a country and that all the regional countries should be included in such a system.

Anniversary of Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait Viewed

LD0208211895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 2 Aug 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At midnight of August 2nd 1990, hundreds of thousands of Iraqi troops, without meeting any resistance, occupied the small but oil-rich sheikdom of Kuwait. It was at the time when the sheikdom was construed as an ally of Baghdad and in the course of the war imposed by Iraq on Iran Kuwait had extended abundant aids to Saddam Husayn. Today observers consider expansionism and quest for power of Baghdad as the main factor for the seven-month-long Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

At the same time the United States, on the pretext of restoring the independence of Kuwait and terminating the Iraqi danger, dispatched nearly 250,000 of its military forces along with abundant war materials to the region. The U.S. Administration, through UN Security Council backing, also managed to take troops from 30 other states to the region.

Following Baghdad's refusal to agree to a peaceful and political solution, Washington took advantage of the opportunity and began to launch its air-raids from January 17th 1991 against military and civilian targets in Iraq. America and its allies, in the course of a 100-hour ground attack that began on February 14th, succeeded in driving the Iraqi troops out of Kuwait but cessation of the military operations on February 28th and declaration of a ceasefire came as a surprise. The reason is that the United States at that time, as it had already pledged, was in a position to advance up to Baghdad and overthrow Saddam Husayn. Observers believe that the White House agrees with only the presence of that regime in Baghdad which undertakes to follow Washington's policies. On view of the nuclear situation at the time U.S. officials preferred to keep the Iraqi regime in power, subject to its being controlled within a specific framework. In this way, by declaring a ceasefire the Iraqi army got an opportunity to crush the uprising of the Shias in the south and that of the Kurds in the northern parts of Iraq.

At any rate, in this devastating war, America, taking advantage of opportunism and miscalculation by the Baghdad regime and lack of foresightedness on the part of the Sheiks in the countries south of the Persian Gulf, got an opportunity to considerably boost its presence in the region with the help of the Sheiks' money. Also, since the termination of the war until now Western states have sold arms worth tens of billions of dollars to the Persian Gulf Sheikdoms. Due to support of Iraq by some Arab governments during the Oil War, the Arab world has fallen into disarray.

Meanwhile economic sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council, which were approved for weakening the Baghdad regime, have faced the Iraqi nation with poverty and extreme misfortune.

Army Reports Iraqi Cease-Fire Violations

*LD3107121895 Tehran IRNA in English
1048 GMT 31 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA — The Armed Forces command headquarters on Monday reported 80 cases of Iraqi cease-fire violations between January 21 and June 22.

The report said that the cease fire violations took place in West Azerbaijan, Kurdistan, Ilam, Kermanshah and Khuzestan Provinces alongside the Iranian borders with Iraq.

It listed the cases as towing of a damaged ship from Iraqi port city of Basra towards the United Arab Emirates, illegal movement of boats on Arvandrud waters, installment of wireless antenna and barbed wires, planting of mine and setting up of watch towers.

Installment of anti-aircraft equipment and satellite dishes, reconnaissance flights by Iraqi planes and helicopters, firing of tracer bullets and 120 mm artillery shells at Iranian territories, patrolling and movement of Iraqi tanks and personnel carriers were among other cases of cease-fire violations perpetrated by the Iraqi Army, reported the Armed Forces command headquarters.

It listed other cease-fire violation cases as clashes between Iraqi forces and Iranian border guards, explosions in border areas and cooperation of Iraqi forces with bandits to slip into Iranian territory and kidnapping of three Iranian villagers from Mahabad.

Rowhani Urges Diplomats To Safeguard Interests

*LD3107071995 Tehran IRNA in English
0649 GMT 31 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA — Majles Vice Speaker Hasan Rowhani here Sunday [30 July] stressed that Iran's foreign policy is based on defending Islam and rights of Muslims throughout the globe.

Rowhani, who is also the National Security Council (NSC) spokesman, made the remark at a seminar attended by Iranian diplomatic missions throughout the world.

Addressing Iran's ambassadors, charge d'affaires and consul generals, he underlined the need for safeguarding the country's national interests.

Criticizing the West for feeling free to employ every possible means to impose its ideals on nations, he said that they use the human rights lever, women's status and the nuclear issue to materialize their objective of establishing hegemony on free nations.

Rowhani further urged the Iranian envoys to strictly observe Islamic laws and tenets in performance of their functions.

He called on Muslim nations to unite and use their resources and facilities such as oil that may be used to foil the plots of their common enemies.

Thanking the country's representatives abroad for their sincere efforts, Rowhani encouraged them to be more dynamic and alert in defending issues pertaining to their particular regions, and those of the Islamic world, at international forums.

Rafsanjani Stresses Need for Streamlining Customs

LD0208181695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need for creating more appropriate facilities for the export of domestic products during his meeting with the head of Iran's Customs. The president described the expansion of the export of the country's non-oil products as one of the important objectives of the Second Development Plan. He pointed out the need for the streamlining of customs procedure and the elimination of unwanted formalities at the points of entry and exit in order to expedite the export of non-oil products and travel procedures.

Referring to the importance of further coordination among the relevant establishments, he stressed the need for planning for the elimination of bureaucratic bottlenecks and strengthening of Iran's Customs organization.

Oil Minister on Foreign Investment, Production Data

*LD2707151895 Tehran IRNA in English
1452 GMT 27 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA — Deputy oil minister, Seyyed Kazem Vaziri [name as received] says the ministry wants to tender 12 major oil and gas projects to foreign oil consortiums in the second five year development plan.

Vaziri told 'IRAN NEWS' that the responsibility for such tenders, mostly for offshore drilling and gas exploration, will be under the supervision of the int'l department of the Petroleum Ministry.

The paper in its 'Economic Review' on Wednesday, quoted the deputy minister as saying that the selection of the foreign consortiums will be based on their having and enjoying strong financial records and reputation. Vaziri predicted that foreign oil consortiums will invest over 6.5 billion dollars.

He said that Iran's current oil production capacity per day is estimated at 4.2 million barrels, adding that the capacity will be boosted up to 4.5 million by the end of the second five year plan.

The deputy minister stated that Iran strictly observed the margin of crude oil production set by OPEC, which is 3.6 million barrels per day. Iran exports 2.2 million of the total quantity.

Vaziri said Iran will earn about 72.6 billion dollars from oil sale during the second five year development plan. He also expected the petrochemical production capacity to rise to 16.44 million tons at the end of the second five year plan from the current 9.2 million tons.

The deputy minister concluded that gas extraction which stands at 500 million cubic meters at present will hit a new level of 700 million cubic meters at the end of the second five year plan.

Articles View Role of Women in Science, Industry

*95LA0283A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
30, 31 May, 1 Jun 95*

[30 May p 5]

[FBIS Translated Text] The day begins for them with the call to work and effort. They always see before them several different duties and responsibilities, difficult and unbearable. Patiently, struggling and in pain, they have become accustomed and contented with their simple lives. They have always accepted multiple responsibilities. We are speaking about women. Their international conference will soon be held in Beijing, attended by most of the nations of the world and the non-governmental women's organizations.

In recent days also the International Conference on the Role of Women and the Family in Human Development ended in Tehran. At the same time another exposition and congress has been held at one of the scientific centers to study the role of women in industry and development. This year is the year of women, but this year women throughout the world, especially the toiling Iranian women, who are engaged in various social activities in the factories, the slaughterhouses, the pastures, the offices, the hospitals, the schools, the universities, homes and elsewhere, are at the same time performing the sacred duty of motherhood.

More than listening to the empty propaganda of the false proponents of women's liberation in the world (the leaders of world imperialism), they are thinking of their abilities, their creativity, talents, perseverance, endurance, and other qualities, and, as in the past, they are striving to rely on themselves and their talents to confront the problems and obstacles around them. Iranian women never look at their lives through Western eyes.

Have Iranian women achieved the basic indicators which would point to their social advancement from the point of view of the Western development theorists? Clearly, looking at the "woman" issue in our society from the point of view of Western theorists not only goes against principle, but in many cases it is destructive, unrealistic and based on incorrect premises.

Indira Gandhi, the famous Asian political leader, who was herself a prominent woman in the world, once discussed the propaganda effects of Western media in an interview: She said: We are looking at ourselves in the mirror of the West.

Clearly the women of our society have never accepted such a mirror, which inaccurately reflects them, and they pay no attention to their lives as they appear from the point of view of a Westerner. The loyal women and mothers made great sacrifices throughout the years of the imposed war. They lost many children, spouses, brothers and others and gave new meaning to the greatest human missions. In the great battle of their responsibilities they have become an enduring image.

Such women with faith not only do not believe in the criteria of Westerners for their lives and their social, economic and cultural existence, they resist the poisoned ideas of the imperialists with their right and real beliefs. Although Iranian women do not regard their lives through Western eyes, this does not mean that they do not see the deficiencies, malfunctions, and problems in their social lives and will not seek to correct these weakness.

Women and Literacy

One of the important indicators of the progress of women in any society is their literacy and level of education. To whatever extent the literacy of women is high in a society, it can be said that society has gone that far down the path of progress and growth. Unfortunately, the level of literacy for the women in our society is lower than that of the men. Based on the latest official statistics, close to 80 percent of the men 10 years of age and older in our society are literate, and this figure is only 67 percent for the women 10 years of age and older.

Of course although these statistics are accurate, the real statistics do not define literacy in our society. According to one of the experts, literacy in society clearly should not be measured solely on the criteria of reading and writing. There is much room for debate as to whether in today's world we should regard someone as literate who has only this kind of literacy.

In any case, no matter what the indicators for literacy may be, about 33 percent of the women in our society lack even the ability to read and write, and according to the experts, this is a basic cultural and educational loss to our society.

With regard to the inclination of girls and women to study, unfortunately it must be said that the older the girls and women get, the less inclined they are to study, whether at the secondary level or in higher education. Statistics show that in the academic year 1371 -1372 [1992 - 1993] there were close to 16.82 million boys and girls studying in the schools, of whom more than 9 million were boys and close to 7.5 million were girls.

In other words, 55 percent of the student population is boys and 45 percent is girls. While these statistics show that almost all the girls go to school, there is still a percentage of them who are deprived of literacy compared to the boys. They are deprived of literacy because they live in rural and remote areas and also because of improper cultural and economic structures.

Why is it that all of the girls in our society cannot go to school, and why is the literacy level of the women in our country generally lower than that of the men?

An expert says with regard to this: In many of the nation's rural areas and remote cities, the expectation that girls and women take part in social, cultural, and economic activities is quite minimal. Among the residents of some parts of our country, unlike the boys, the girls are not considered bread winners and economic agents, even though almost all the rural women and girls engage in economic activity in the fields, the pastures, and in the home carpet-weaving factories.

The question is: why do they not take this active and direct participation into account? One must go back to those same improper cultural criteria and take these same incorrect rules into consideration. Such incorrect rules are also one of the reasons why rural girls do not go to school (as the boys do).

Women in Economic Activity

She is a small young girl, perhaps no more than eight years old, but her gaunt cheeks and the large eyes in those bony sockets show that the burden of her life is heavy. She works in a home carpet-weaving factory. With her small cut and calloused hands, she weaves carpet threads on a loom. She seems to sacrifice a drop of her life with every knot she ties. She knows nothing of wages. She does not realize she should be paid for this work, but worst of all, she does not know what "young" means and knows nothing of the beauties of childhood. What research, what study, what economic indicator can measure her involvement in the rural economy and that of thousands of other young girls, as well as adult rural women who have the first say? Little Zahra weaves and weaves until the day when the light goes out of her eyes, as it did with her grandmother, and then she stays at home because of old age.

Another is a young woman about 18 years old with three young children. In the planting and harvest seasons, her husband calls her at 3 a.m.: "We must go to the field!" The two older children who are sleeping are left with their grandmother. The younger one, who is nursing and needs its mother by the hour, is tied to the mother's back. The woman follows her husband to the field. She has with her a bit of bread and a bite of cheese wrapped in a handkerchief, the day's lunch for her and her husband. She also has the harvesting scythes and other things.

No person or organization has undertaken to do an economic analysis of her work or that of millions of rural women who participate in agricultural production.

Like her, Kowkab is another rural woman working in a rice paddy without wage or salary. During the days of planting, when it is overcast, cloudy, and rainy, Kowkab and her friends and neighbors plant the green rice seedlings, up to their knees in mud, slime, and water. They themselves get no wage, but the fruits of their labor are taken by the rice dealer. Rice dealers have made one of the nation's most strategic agricultural crops—rice—the basis for their boundless profiteering.

In this, no indicator or economic criterion has measured the role of the women rice workers of the north in the production of domestic rice. One expert says: With regard to the involvement of women in economic activities, viewpoints that show signs of little or no awareness must be revised. It is clear that women are effectively and directly involved in agricultural and industrial production, but the statistics and numbers show this involvement as being quite low. The indicator for the employment of women only evaluates those who earn wages and work in the various offices and institutions, mostly doing administrative and service tasks.

It is here, in accordance with the official statistics, that we see that only 8 to 9 percent of the nation's women are employed. The question is, because they receive no wages, are the rural women working in the wheat fields or rice paddies unemployed according to the criteria for economic production? Is it only the women who have greater literacy and better resources in the cities, working in professions and administrative occupations, who are employed?

Women and Study

Women are the educators of tomorrow's generation. Women are considered the focus of the family. Clearly, for them to better teach children and youngsters and for them to be extensively, capably, and alertly involved in social and family activities, they must study and increase their awareness.

Unfortunately, studies show that the culture of study is low among women. Although the culture of study is lacking among all the people, whether women or men, women have a lower culture in this regard. The statistics on attendance at the nation's various libraries indicate this. Although women are half the nation's population, only 25 percent of the members of the national and public libraries are women. Statistics also show that the members of all the libraries affiliated with the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance totaled 427,000 in 1369 [21 March 1990 - 20 March 1991], of whom only 124,000 were women.

At the same time the number of men attending the libraries of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance in 1369 was 9,890, of whom only about 2,697 were women. In other words, 7,193 of those attending the libraries belonging to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance in the year 1369 were men, a much larger figure compared to the number of women.

The number of members of the National Library in 1371 [21 March 1992 - 20 March 1993] was 2,902, of whom 1,036 were women. Thus the studies show that the remoteness of the locations and the limited number of public libraries, along with the difficulty of membership in some libraries, have caused the women of our country to stay away from studying to a great extent.

Of course it should be said that the main reasons for the low level of study among women cannot be summarized in this framework. With regard to the question of how to raise the level of study among the nation's women and get new indicators in this connection, we sought the views of Fatemeh Rake'i, a professor at Al-Zahra University and contemporary poet.

She said: Compared to the years prior to our revolution, we had high intellectual growth among the women because of the personality that Islam has given to women. Despite this, however, due to various problems such as pregnancy, work having to do with the home, and other things, women study less than men.

In recent years, with the holding of international expositions on books and likewise with the measures taken to promote the culture of studying throughout society, more attention has been given to women (compared to the past).

In this regard Fatemeh Rake'i, university professor, said: The Book and Family booth at the Tehran International Book Expo was interesting, and fortunately in recent years the issue of women has been given much attention. This conclusion can be drawn clearly from various seminars and publications. Currently we have no problem in the area of books about women's subjects.

[31 May p 5]

[FBIS Translated Text] The dark, black night comes to an end and the celestial call to prayer at the true dawn announces the break of day. She arises to heavenly verses from the Koran. Face and hands washed, ritually cleansed, white chador wrapped around her head, she faces the one God for prayer.

When the prayer is over, it is time to brew tea and prepare breakfast for her husband and children, time to do kitchen work, prepare lunch and other things. All these tasks are completed by 7 a.m. and she, as a manager, an efficient woman and president of a factory, is ready to go to work.

At 8 a.m. she is at her desk with a mountain of work, purchase orders, applications for exports, written requests from workers and factory personnel, and other things. From 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. she does whatever factory office work must be done. After that she goes to one of her production units in the industrial city of Qazvin because today she must visit this factory.

Just before noon she reaches the factory. Although it is lunch time, the workers are busy working with the same interest, love, and persistence as always. The smells of aluminum, teflon, and chemicals are in the air, and loud machines are operating. Creative energy, human intelligence, and the applied skills of people and machines produce standard quality teflon cooking implements on the final production line.

With the arrival of the manager and factory owner, all the workers, who are all men, express respect, and here is where the image of a woman in the difficult domain of industry appears clearly.

La'aya Ruya'i is an industrialist woman, an engineer, a factory manager and a successful producer, but the most important point that shows her abilities most in industrial work and activity is her great success in managing her home and children. In other words, she has not sacrificed her role as a successful wife and a concerned mother for her industrial and production work as a factory manager. At the same time, she has spared absolutely nothing in effort and persistence to achieve victory in the domain of industry.

She was the only woman to attend the Congress and Exposition on the Role of Women in Science, Industry, and Development. Her singularity is not because women have little opportunity or luck for advancement in the field of industry. Rather, one of the main reasons for the limited position of women in production and industry is really the difficulty of this work and at the same time the lack of fundamental attention to industrial production in our nation's economic structure.

It is laudable and praiseworthy that a woman is actively working in this area in such a way that the products of her factory are being exported, especially in view of all the existing problems in industry such as the lack of raw materials, the lack of advanced industrial equipment and machinery, the high cost of foreign exchange, the lack of serious support for production, and other problems.

This successful industrialist woman says herself that she has absolutely no desire to remain alone in the work she is doing. She therefore asks all innovative and talented women with a desire to engage in various kinds of industrial work to believe in their abilities in this difficult field (industry). Apart from that, as a mother and loyal wife, she also believes that women must never forget their constructive and essential role, which is managing household and family affairs.

Women Researchers

To what extent do the women of our nation have a role in research and scholarship? Studies show that after the Islamic revolution, our nation's believing women became more visible in research and scholarship and showed themselves to be quite creative.

Farah ol-Sadat Halek, an expert at the Energy and Materials Research Site, stated in a study titled "The Role of Women in Research" presented to the Congress and Exposition on the Role of Women in Science, Industry, and Development, that in the various specialist groups most of the women doing research and scholarship are educators. Educators make up 0.7 percent of the 157 women researchers in the technical and engineering group. The number of these educators in the basic sciences is 51 percent of all the women researchers, in the humanities they are 48 percent, and in the medical group also 48 percent of the women researchers are educators.

In the agricultural group there are four women at the level of professor, but at the same time there are also 29 women at the level of instructor. Studies show clearly that in the agricultural and art groups there is a very significant shortage of researchers and scholars.

It is worth mentioning that most of the participation by women in the specialist and scientific groups (compared to men) is in the medical field, and the least numbers of active women researchers are in the technical, engineering, agricultural, and art groups.

Farah ol-Sadat Halek notes that in our country serious attention must be given to science and research and that scholars and researchers must be encouraged to do scientific work. She believes that all theories and views on research, scholarship, and carrying out large projects depend on those doing research, whether they be women or men. It is for this reason that to better understand the active involvement of women in society, it is especially important to understand their employment situation in the government and non-government sectors and in the research universities and institutions.

A study of statistics on students at the specialist doctoral and professional levels shows that about 30 percent of the students at this level are women. Of course despite the fact that the women of our country have been quite successful in attaining university knowledge and study, their employment has not been in accord with their level of education. In 1365 [21 March 1986 - 20 March 1987] only 0.15 percent of the working women were in high management positions, although 18 percent of the working women in our country have higher education.

A Successful Woman in Home and Factory

We spoke of La'aya Ruya'i, her success in industrial production, the fact that the products of her factory, which is called "Iran Teflon Kumeh," are purchased in 20 countries, and that its products are competitive with the best varieties of these products (teflon containers) in the world. She was introduced to the Congress and Exposition on the Role of Women in Science, Industry, and Development by the Ministry of Industries.

We interviewed her at her booth at the Exposition on the Role of Women in Science, Industry, and Development, which was sponsored by the president of the republic's Office of Women's Affairs with the cooperation of the Ministry of Industries.

She said: Without exaggeration, I work 18 hours a day.

How is that?

She said: Because the minutes and seconds are important to me. For example today, when I had to come to the congress, I had all the housework and cooking done at home by 7 a.m. and I was at the congress right at 8 o'clock. I prefer that the work I do at home be neat and orderly, the same as in the factory office.

Once a woman's publication interviewed me and I told the publication that in all of my family life I have never served omelets, sausages, or prepared foods to my children and husband! When I come home from the company, no matter when it is, afternoon or evening, I immediately go into the kitchen to do the housework and cooking.

We asked: Have you been able to coordinate the two different roles of housewife and factory manager?

She answered: If I am not being too self-congratulatory, I must say yes. My husband is quite happy with the way I manage the home. At home I have never thought of myself as manager of a factory, and I take my husband's satisfaction as an indication that I have been able to do my household duties properly.

We asked: What do you do in the area of industrial work?

She said: You may not believe this, but it is very simple for me. I have been working in industry since age 17 or 18. From the beginning I worked in the Ministry of Industries, and I was manager of a factory called Atamsafar for five years. I studied for some time in the university in the engineering field. Thus it was not that hard for me to take on the responsibility of a factory.

Self-Reliance

The woman director of a factory believes that her being a woman has never been an obstacle to her active involvement in industry, and in many cases much means were made available (for this reason) in the area of her work.

In other words, contrary to the ideas prevalent in today's society, the involvement of a woman in industry—even as the director and manager of a factory—is not only not difficult, it is quite significant.

We asked her: What year did you take over management of your factory?

She said: After the revolution, conditions were created for the involvement of different classes of people in production and industry. In view of the fact that I worked in the Ministry of Industries and was active in this area, I got the idea of getting an agreement in principle to build a factory. Of course getting this agreement required capital. With the help of my brother and the means and credits the Sepah Bank gave us, in 1360 [21 March 1981 - 20 March 1982] I was able to obtain an agreement in principle and I started the factory in 1364 [21 March 1985 - 20 March 1986].

As a woman, didn't you have problems with regard to your work?

Fortunately no, because contrary to the prevalent idea, wherever I went I was encouraged by the industrial organizations. If I wanted a commercial card, I got one. If I wanted to do exports, I encountered no problems just because I am a woman. The industrial officials never said to me that since I am a woman I cannot go outside the country to buy machinery. Once the deputy minister of industries—at a time when the restrictions on foreign exchange were tight for industry—gave me more foreign exchange because of the fact that I am a woman. I was able to attend international seminars and conferences as an industrialist.

We asked: In view of what you have said, is it lack of self-confidence or fear that keeps women from doing industrial work?

I am not saying it is fear, but groundless misgivings have come about for women in our country's current circumstances. For a woman to advance and be successful in these areas, especially industry, she must make efforts, and at the same time they must observe criteria. If women with an interest and belief in work begin without fearing the obstacles and difficulties, they will clearly achieve many successes in social areas.

Place of Women in Family

It is clear that the central and basic place for women, the family, which is the primary human social unit, is a special and significant place. In reality, the defense of the family and its sanctity is defense of the right and true position of women in Islamic society.

In our country, especially after the triumph of the Islamic revolution, our women worked hard to strengthen the family, and they really made the family a place that assures ease and spiritual and emotional tranquillity for themselves and its members.

In a recent conference on the role of women in the family and human development, great attention was given to this important matter with regard to the women of our country. The rural women of our country were treated as the real indicators and the most important focal point of families.

Ahmad Lotfi, who has a bachelor's degree in social and divine sciences, studied the role of Iran's rural women in the nation's economic, social, and cultural development at the Congress and Exposition on the Role of Women in Science, Industry, and Development. With regard to their defining position in the family, he said: Throughout history, the rural woman has been the person who truly completes the man. She has worked shoulder-to-shoulder with the man in agriculture, animal husbandry, poultry keeping, and raising children, and she has always cooperated and thought with him even in quarrels, feasts, and funerals.

After the triumph of the Islamic revolution of Iran, in addition to their former family responsibilities, the rural women took on a logical identity, and they underwent great change spiritually and in their understanding of their human rights in the home and in society. Rural women made the greatest sincere efforts in worship, religious knowledge of what is allowed and what is forbidden, attraction and repulsion, taking part in demonstration marches and spiritual ceremonies, sending their children to school, and dealing with their services and the provisions for their advancement.

Today's rural woman has learned well the art of keeping a husband and children and the regional rites and customs in accordance with the perspective of Islam of Mohammad (peace be upon him). During the war, the rural women invited their husbands and young sons to the battlefield of truth against falsehood, and behind the lines the heavy burden of responsibility was on her shoulders.

In short, rural women are the heirs to the cultural oral tradition throughout history in all areas, and they teach the bitter and sweet proverbs, stories, and poems of their clans, tribes, and regions to their children. In addition, rural women are the manifestation of kindness and emotion.

[1 June p 5]

[FBIS Translated Text] My mother! Oh image of love and kindness, dewdrops glistening on your hair. Mother, I remember your endless sufferings, each one a wrinkle on your aged face. Mother, had it not been for you, there would be no faith, no love, no kindness, no sentiment, and in a word, no life.

When I opened my eyes to the world, it was always your damp and worried eyes that I saw clearly before me. I heard your sweet words, always a melody of kindness and affection, and I saw you moving quickly to keep your family together. The meaning of love, kindness, friendship, and growth was given to life only in the shelter of your soothing hands.

Even then I knew that were it not for you, there would not be a family, there would be no home, and the little house of kindness would never have been built for the children and babies. Mother, it was you who taught the story to our generation of being a true woman, and throughout your fruitful life you spoke of the great duties and responsibilities of a woman as a mother and as the origin of the essence of the family and society.

Many years later, your children past childhood and into adulthood, you are still worried about their futures. I have come to believe that "woman" is the essence and the enduring focus of "family" and all human life. How beautiful and glorious a woman is in society as a mother and loyal wife.

Culture, which builds human beings and teaches the children and youth, has long portrayed the mother in all human societies with much luminosity. The woman is herself the builder of the family, and she dwells in the shelter of home and family, but in the Western societies she has become lost and without identity due to the destruction and collapse of families.

Such a woman, who not long ago was a worthy mother and spouse, has been left alone and abandoned to pursue the mirage of her true identity. The woman of the West has become merchandise, a thing, a being of little value and lacking in the splendid manifestations of motherhood. She is a prisoner in the hands of the capitalists, a consumer item. A shapeless image of freedom is displayed for her, which has absolutely no human identity.

The reality of the role of women in the West now shows that the greatest damage has been done to the women in these societies in cultural and humanitarian terms and in terms of aspirations. It is thus that Islamic culture, in making the role of women the indicator in the family and in assigning to woman the heavy responsibility of motherhood and being a spouse, has in reality made her the center of being and life.

Women Give Form to Body of Humanity

Making the role of woman central in the family means that woman is the main form-giver to the body of humanity. Parvin Mosnen Mozafari, a member of the faculty of the Free Islamic University, presented a paper titled "Giving Weight to the Role of Women in Development" at the Congress and Exposition on the Role of Women in Science, Industry, and Development. She notes that in the view of many experts, manpower is considered one of the main resources for development, for it comprises the thoughts, the beliefs, the culture, the knowledge, the skills, and the creative power of individuals. Women are not only half of this resource when counted directly, but they are also the ones who train and guide both halves of this resource. Therefore, like it or not, women have a basic role to play in establishing the human dimensions of development. This role can appear as positive or negative, heavy or inadequate.

Parvin Mosnen Mozafari also emphasizes: Since the personality, identity, and motivations of individuals are formed based on values, beliefs, and ideas, naturally culture is the determining factor in manpower and, in a primary way, in development. On the other hand, religious beliefs, values, and behavior are important elements of culture which play a basic role in development.

This researcher notes that according to the reputable religious texts, development in its full and proper sense is the ultimate goal of the divine prophets. As the most complete of the divine religions, Islam contains within it elements whose revival could potentially stimulate development.

In this development of Muslims (women and men) one can not only achieve all the positive aspects of development but also avoid its negative side effects. We must therefore ask women to play their role in all dimensions of development based on Islamic cultural elements, which include work, production, adherence to order, planning, belief in aspirations, and other things.

The Exposition

A visit to the exposition, which speaks of the academic, industrial, and production ability of women and which shows the research achievements of toiling Iranian women, shows the generational pride of women who have been trained in the context of the goals of the revolution.

Women who have truly found their high position in the family and in society will never be the dolls in a puppet show for the world capitalists. A tour of this exposition and the involvement of women in science, research, scholarship, industry, and production reinforces the idea in all the visitors that in our society we will never again see women who are merchandise and showy mannequins cultivated by Western culture.

When at this exposition we see one woman working as a factory manager, another designing several kinds of military equipment molds, a third working as a researcher and a scholar, a fourth as a carpet-weaving artist, and a fifth with the highest academic credentials (doctorate) with her research completion certificate, the doll image of woman (the plaything of the domineering policies of Westerners) disappears from our minds with unbelievable speed.

At this exposition we see Laleh and Ladan Safa'ian (Siamese twins) who have come to visit as law students at Tehran University, and they reject everything that is said about the inability of women. Laleh and Ladan say that good scientific papers were presented to the congress and that they are happy about this.

They carefully review the booths, and like all the responsible girls and women in this land, they strive to eliminate the detestable idea that women are incapable and weak. A short tour of the Congress and Exposition on the Role of Women in Science, Industry, and Development shows that although the women of our society have entered the domains of academic, social, and industrial activities quite late, in this short period they have been able to do many astonishing things.

The mass of books and final research papers in various specialist doctoral and professional fields in one booth shows that women are getting more extensively involved in academic areas. In this exposition carpets and designs for procuring water and improving agricultural production by women researchers are presented, and this reminds us that women were the first human beings in history to engage in agriculture, and they have still retained their important role in agriculture.

We are astonished when we hear the person in charge of the exposition say that more than 1,000 research projects were sent to the exposition committee by the participating centers and individuals, of which more than 800 were accepted.

In the Plant Modification and Seed and Sapling Procurement Booth are displayed projects designed by women in the fields of plant tissue cultivation and botanical gene banks. The person in charge of this booth says: Most of these research institutions play a very constructive role culturally and educationally in the management of family affairs.

In the cities and villages the heavy burden of looking after and raising children is the task of the woman of the family. One participant at the Congress and Exposition on the Role of Women in Science, Industry, and Development named Dr. Hadi Samadi believes that one of the great achievements of the Islamic revolution of Iran is the revival of the sense of independence of each individual in the nation, especially the women (based on the policy of neither East nor West).

This university professor believes that the women of our country, who played a basic role in achieving the revolution, while continuing to take on the very heavy daily burden of family and social responsibilities, are also striving to achieve their cultural identity and to find themselves academically.

In the rural areas, although these efforts do not have that much of an academic character, with the rich culture that our nation's rural areas have (in general), the women carry out several roles which in some cases are beyond the abilities of one ordinary individual.

Right now more than 12 million women and girls live in our nation's rural areas. Dr. Hasan Derakhshan, a professor at Bu 'Ali Sina University of Hamadan, presented a paper on "The Role of Rural Women in the Agricultural Economy." He made the point that "although the women produce about 80 percent of the food in our country and are the heads of 30 percent of the rural families, their work is not usually counted."

In his article, this researcher notes that the unequal relations between women and men is more notable in the world in the work place and in social and educational activities and that this inequality is much more striking in the rural areas.

Continuing, he noted: The merging of work with rural family life and the rural woman's failure to receive a salary for her work have kept the activities of rural women and the role they play in the production of agricultural crops from being counted. Currently, all the government's effort is focused on developing the country, and agriculture has been presented as the focus in economic development. Any kind of development without the participation of rural women will have no result.

This researcher notes: Policy-making in rural development must be such that the role of rural women is recognized, their rights are honored, and this great class is elevated.

Proposals To Raise Women's Living Standards

How can efforts be made to improve and elevate the family and social standard of living of women? This is the question that occurs to every scholar and researcher. Ms. Behzadpur, a consultant to the minister of guidance, presented a paper to the congress titled "The Role of Women in the Development of Science and Technology." In her interesting analysis she reached the conclusion that a return to the pure cultural nature in woman is one of the factors for her growth in today's society.

In her paper she stated that the exclusive concern with science in Western societies has led to the spread of corruption and excessive human alienation. To keep from being condemned in such societies for being weak in reasoning ability, the women have sought to prove their abilities in the sciences. Through ceaseless effort, they have tried to eradicate this historic accusation against them, but the separation from natural responsibilities has alienated them, and the reduction in social security, even in intellectual circles, torments them because of the lack of scientific ethics.

Ms. Behzadpur concludes: Now, when education is the main context for the rise of science (in a coordinated and comprehensive way), the century is reaching out to woman, who as the agent for the creation of the new civilization is central in cultivating scientific ethics. She understands this role in the creation of the new educational civilization, which goes hand-in-hand with her ancient natural characteristics.

Dr. Hasan Derakhshan, professor at Bu 'Ali Sina University of Hamadan, also made the following recommendations for improving the lot of rural women:

1. Education of rural women, where this education must have the two aspects of official education and unofficial (promotional) education.

2. Including women in most official and unofficial organizations. Unfortunately there are no societies, guilds, unions, or cooperatives of any kind in connection with rural women.

3. Creation of suitable employment for women, especially rural women. Usually there is little employment variety in rural areas for women, and the income is low. The men go to the city to work, but in these kinds of cases there are no places of employment for women.

4. Insurance and future security for rural women. Despite the agricultural activities of women, they are always considered householders and are deprived of retirement benefits, health insurance, and other things. Steps must be taken to correct these policies.

Pakistan

U.S. Envoy's 'Best Ally' Remarks Doubted

BK0208135195 Islamabad NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 2 Aug 95 p 10

[Editorial: "U.S. Should Prove Its Sincerity"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The outgoing U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan John C. Monjo has said in his speech at the Punjab club that the United States has no partiality toward India against Pakistan. Talking about the Pressler Amendment, he admitted that it has complicated ties. However, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's recent visit to the United States has brought considerable improvement to the situation. Now a positive attitude exists in the United States and it is generally believed that the U.S. should improve relations with its best ally, Pakistan. The claim that the U.S. has no inclination toward India is absolutely unacceptable. The fact is that the United States has always been partial toward India and has never considered Pakistan a front line state except for the ten years of the Afghanistan jihad. It is the U.S. which has upset the balance of power in this region. In fact, it has weakened Pakistan's defense capability by overlooking India's nuclear program, its intransigence on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the conventional weapons program, the production of missiles and its plans to make all its three armed forces capable of aggression. Now the U.S. and India have signed a defense agreement that further encourages India. Some U.S. politicians have demanded that India also be consulted on the recently announced U.S. military aid package for Pakistan. While the F-16's are not being delivered even though we have already paid for them, steps are now being taken to close down our nuclear program after getting it capped. At the same time, our missile program to counter India's is also being obstructed. At times, it is said that Pakistan has acquired missiles from China. Then, China is directly pressured not to provide missile technology to Pakistan. As far as the question of being the most allied ally is concerned, the United States has always selfishly pursued its own interests ever since the fall of Dhaka. During the Afghan war, the U.S. President very easily proved to Congress that Pakistan did not possess any nuclear weapons, and so it should be given aid. After the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Kabul, the Pressler amendment, in its worst form, was again imposed so much so that the supply of military equipment had been stopped even after it received payment. Now, the idea of better ties with Pakistan could reemerge if it is somehow needed again for operations against the so-called terrorism. Otherwise, the U.S. strategy is aimed at using Pakistan for its own purpose by isolating it from its brother Islamic countries. If the United States is really not partial toward India, then it should take measures on the balance of power and particularly, regarding the Kashmir issue to prove its good intentions.

Daily Criticizes U.S. Attitude Towards Bosnia

BK0108111795 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 1 Aug 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Bosnia — Islamic Conference's Particular Responsiblity"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto have said that Pakistan is ready to provide all possible support to the Bosnian Muslims. Troops have already been sent to Bosnia as a part of the UN peacekeeping force and if needed, Pakistan is ready to increase its numbers. The president and the prime minister were talking to Dr. Hamid Algabid. Dr. Algabid, who is the secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC], said Muslim countries are considering ways to provide arms to the Bosnian Muslims in the wake of the decision made at the recent Geneva meeting of the OIC contact group on Bosnia. He added that the United Nations and the Western nations have disappointed Muslims as they have not played any effective role in safeguarding Bosnia from Serb aggression. Now, the OIC will defend Bosnian Muslims. After more than three years of Serb aggression, the massacre of Muslims is still continuing in Bosnia. Unfortunately, under the influence of Western nations, the UN and the OIC have not been able to take any effective and decisive steps to stop the genocide of Muslims and reclaim their territory from Serb occupation. Western nations and Muslim countries have raised a lot of hue and cry over Serb brutalities, but it has not been possible for them to take any effective measures. Recently, Serb aggression has intensified with attacks having begun on the six areas declared as UN safe havens. Two "safe havens", Srebrenica and Zepa, have already been lost to the Serbs. Thousands have been forced to flee these areas and plunder and killings are going on.

Meanwhile, UN forces in Bosnia, working under many constraints, are so weak and small in numbers that they have not been able to counter the Serbs. In view of this, the demand to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia, is getting stronger among all the fair-minded circles of the world. Because of this pressure, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution to try to lift the embargo unilaterally by a majority of 69 to 29. The U.S. House of Representatives is to vote on a similar resolution today. Earlier, it had passed a resolution with a majority of 318-99 asking President Clinton to lift the embargo. However, according to the requirements of the U.S. system, the House of Representative will have to pass a similar resolution again. The U.S. Administration and the White House are trying their level best to see that Congress does not pass the resolution, and if it is, not by a two-third's majority, so that President Clinton can veto it. The U.S. Administration is also trying to delay the passage of this resolution as much as possible. The resolutions will not be sent to the president for approval if the one put forward by the House of Representatives varies in any respect from the one passed by the Senate. If there are some differences between the resolutions, both houses will have to hold consultations and pass a joint resolution. If this happens, then the Congressional session will be adjourned with a fresh attempt at passage only possible at the end of August. All these show that a U.S. decision to lift the embargo remains a far cry. The U.S. Administration can attempt to make the text of the resolutions of the two houses dissimilar and see that they do not get a two-third's majority. This will delay the passage of the resolutions, while retaining President Clinton right to veto them.

Meanwhile, Senator John Glenn's statement that the U.S. people do not think that their interests are at stake in Bosnia reveals real U.S. thinking. Senator Glenn has always been against providing economic and military aid to Pakistan. Therefore, it is not possible to say right now that the United States is definitely lifting the Bosnian arms embargo. So, the OIC should prepare its own strategy to help Bosnia, and not wait for the U.S. decision or rely on Washington. The OIC has finally taken a bold stand in Geneva after such a long time. Now, it should devise measures to implement the decision without delay. Otherwise, it is feared that other Bosnian Muslim areas will also fall prey to Serb aggression and that the only Muslim state in Europe will cease to exist. If it happens so, it will be a matter of great disgrace and shame to the Islamic world.

Reportage on Talks Between Government, Altaf Group

Minister Calls For 'Political Dialogue'

BK0208134495 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 2 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The interior minister, retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar, has asked Altaf Group to come forward and hold political dialogue with the government and make efforts to bring lasting peace in Karachi. In an appeal on Pakistan Television, the interior minister told negotiating team of Altaf Group that only political dialogue can ensure lasting peace and tranquillity in the city.

The interior minister asked those indulging in acts of terrorism and politics of violence to surrender their weapons and merge themselves into the mainstream of politics. He reiterated that government is committed to weed out the menace of terrorism and, therefore, those indulging in such acts must realize that their nefarious designs will never succeed. Mr. Nasirullah Khan Babar assured that the government will sympathetically consider the cases of those who are involved in minor cases. He also said that the steps taken by the government to handle the law and order situation in Karachi have yielded desired results and the menace of terrorism is making its exit from the city.

Officials View 'Temporary Suspension'

BK0308044595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 3 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government negotiating team for talks with the Altaf Group on resolving the Karachi situation held a meeting in Islamabad yesterday to examine the latest position regarding the temporary suspension of talks. The leader of the team and federal minister for law, justice, and parliamentary affairs, Professor N.D. Khan, presided. Later, he said the government's position remained unchanged on its six points already submitted to the Altaf Group and that the Altaf Group team should come up with clarifications at the fifth round of talks, whenever it is held. Mr. N.D. Khan said the suspension in dialogue was due to the unilateral decision by the Altaf Group not to come to Islamabad. When asked, he said he has not so far contacted the Altaf Group side.

The Altaf Group negotiating team has sent a letter to President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari. According to APP, the letter demanded that the government negotiating team should discuss the basic demands presented by the Altaf Group for resumption of talks. The letter also carried Altaf Hussain's four statements, in one of which he demanded that the people of Kashmir be given the right to self- determination.

MQM Asks President To Save Talks

BK0308105695 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Aug 95 pp 1, 5

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, Aug 2 — The MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] appealed to President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari Wednesday [3 August] to intervene and save the talks it had started with the government from collapsing.

"We are deadlocked and have reached a breaking point", said the party's chief negotiator Ajmal Dehlvi in a brief meeting with The Muslim here. "We have therefore thought it fit to address a communication to the President and bring him up to date on a subject which we regard as highly sensitive", he said.

He said the MQM negotiators had been feeling frustrated with the government's delaying tactics. "The talks are being postponed on one pretext or the other, for which the government alone is responsible".

He said the communication, spread over nine pages, has dealt in detail with the various stages of the talks which began on July 11 and of which four different rounds have been held already.

"We have told the President how the Rangers, the police, the People's Party and the Haqiqis (the faction opposed to Altaf Hussain) have been engaged in murdering our supporters and activists in Karachi, Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Sukkur and other cities since July 9. Thousands have been arrested in the name of security and peace, jailed, tortured and some of them killed in cold blood".

In this connection, he also listed the People's Party MNA [member of National Assembly] from Orangi, Afaq Shahid, who he said had been involved in heinous crimes against MQM supporters in the slum district of Karachi West.

"Afaq is a member of the government negotiating team and his involvement in criminal activity is a dangerous sign", he said.

Mr Dehlvi pointed out that the team, negotiating on behalf of Altaf Hussain, would wait for a couple of days more for the government response, before intimating its decisions to the exiled leader in London.

"It will be then for the party to decide about the future strategy", he said and added that Altaf Hussain was already under intense pressure from his followers to give a fresh call for strikes in Karachi.

The MQM had suspended its strikes on July 12 to enable the talks to succeed, "but had been tricked by the government", Mr Dehlvi said. He said that the MQM negotiating team members in a signed petition to the President, had laid bare all the details of the initiative taken by the MQM and its leader and the "negative response of the government".

He said the President, as constitutional head of the state should exercise his authority, because the MQM did not expect Justice from the Prime Minister.

Asked whether the talks would break down, he feared they would if the government continued with its negative attitude.

The MQM, he said, would resume negotiations only when the government stopped calling it as "Altaf Group". As far its demands for clarification on six different points were concerned, the matter was linked to the recognition question, he said.

The letter said that President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari being the custodian of the constitution should intervene and stop the government from lawlessness and use of state power against Muhajirs and their representative party.

The letter said the MQM would attend the talks only if the government stopped describing MQM as Altaf Group and did not raise non-issues.

The letter said that Altaf Hussain's interview was made a matter of dispute but he issued detailed statement clarifying the issue. In the next round clarification was sought again in this respect.

It pointed out that Raees Fatima [not further identified] has not been recovered as yet. Permission is not being given for meeting with MPA [member of provincial assembly] Qamar Mansoor in Jail.

The letter also claimed that in urban areas of Sindh the government had conducted raids and arrested workers and sympathisers of Altaf Group. Four to five hundred prisoners have been shifted to Islamabad. The government is trying to create another group of MQM and force the detained persons to join that very group, the letter added.

The letter also carried Atlaf Hussain's four statements in one, of which he demanded that the people of Kashmir be given the right of self determination.

Meanwhile the government team hold its meeting in the office of Prof ND Khan on Wednesday and reiterated its position. "We are ready to consider the Altaf Group demands provided they come up with clarifications which the government team has sought", Prof ND Khan said.

Zuhair Akram Nadeem, a member of government negotiating team, left for Karachi and he may contact the Altaf Group to resume talks. He may contact Mr Dehlvi in his personal capacity but that is not official decision said Prof ND Khan.

Talking to The Muslim today Prof ND Khan, leader of government team, said the government's attitude was flexible and it was ready to consider the demand of not calling the other party as Altaf group provided they give clarifications which the government has sought from them. "We are available every time," he said. He said the government negotiating team had been directed by the Prime Minister to resume the talks as early as possible.

Prof ND Khan said if the Altaf group come up with clarification they should fix time and venue for talks and the government team will reach there. He said that government sincerely wants restoration of peace in Karachi and that is why it entered into dialogue with the Altaf Group. He, however, made it clear that government would show no flexibility unless clarification on vital issues was given. The MQM demands are withdrawal of Rangers, restoration of mobile telephones and pagers, calling the MQM by its real name instead of Altaf Group and an end to provocative statements about the leadership of MQM.

The government on the other hand has asked the negotiating team to give clarification about the interview of MQM chief Altaf published in India Today. Mr Hussain in that interview ridiculed the Two Nation theory and mooted the idea of a loose confederation with India.

MQM Issues Rebuttal Against Government Charges

BK0208124295 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 2 Aug 95 p 5

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — The MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] coordination committee, in response to the government's 21 points, submitted to its negotiating team at the outset of the talks, has clarified its position and rejected the government's claims. In this regard the first statement was issued from London on July 27.

The detail of the replies given by the MQM are as under:

"The MQM is the sole representative of the people who have reposed their confidence in it by giving it a clear-cut mandate in various elections. The government's 21 points are a mere 'charge sheet' against the popular party of the Muhajirs.

"Exhorting the MQM to abandon its demand for a separate Muhajir province is a farce as it has never raised any voice for a separate province. "Asking the MQM to refer to Muhajirs as Pakistanis instead of Muhajirs is also unfair. It is not illegal if Punjabis, Sindhis, Pukhtoons and Balochs have been excising the right of identification, why should the Muhajirs be deprived of it?

"Giving a call to the people to go on a strike is a constitutional right of the MQM, and the government cannot, in the name of law and order ask the MQM not to make any such call.

"The Muhajirs are struggling for their constitutional, democratic, political, economic and social rights. Since the creation of Pakistan, they have been denied their due share in political power.

"MQM chief Altaf Hussain has, time and again, stated that the MQM believes in non-violence. The demand that Mr. Hussain should ask his followers to surrender and deposit their arms in the police stations is an illogical one.

"The MQM is ready to extend its cooperation to the government in making Sindh a weapon-free province. But the struggle of the 22 million Muhajirs for genuine rights cannot be finished by using guns against them.

"The demand that Mr Hussain should hand over his workers involved in violent incidents is also unwise. If MQM workers were involved in acts of violence, they would not have gone underground.

"They are displaced. They are facing difficulties into which they have been pushed. Who is involved in killings? The personnel of various agencies are involved in this bloody game.

"The call to the MQM 'to end genocide of other communities, to discard the policy of prejudice and to stop the killings of Balochs, Sindhis, Pukhtoons and Punjabis living in Karachi' is a conspiracy to make these communities prejudiced against the Muhajirs and create hatred against them.

"Asking the MQM to 'refrain from killing its opponents' is another allegation. Everybody knows that Dr. Nazir Ahmed, Chaudhary Zahoor Elahi and others were killed during the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] tenure.

"Targeting political opponents for inhuman treatment in the Lahore Fort and Dilai Camp was also the misdeed of the PPP.

"Asking the Altaf group to 'tolerate and accommodate dissidents from Haqiqis, Jamaat-i-Islami, Jamiat Ulema-i-Pakistan and the PPP is also unfair. The PPP should reject the one-party rule and tolerate other parties on an equal footing. [quotation marks as published]

"What the PPP had done to its opponent during its first tenure is a tale of suppression. Today it again wants to establish the one- party rule in the country.

"Asking the Altaf group to stop targeted killings of members of law enforcement agencies and government of Pakistan and government of Sindh employees is like leveling an allegation. Not justified.

"The law enforces have been killing MQM workers since the Operation Clean-all. Hundreds of MQM workers are incarcerated and several others are missing since June 1992.

"Neither there is any gang nor any gang leader in MQM. However, it is known to the world that even today there are a number of gang leaders and armed group in PPP. One of the large gangs is known as "Al-Zulfikar." Therefore, PPP and "Al-Zulfikar" terrorists should surrender to the law enforcing agencies, their members be removed from the sensitive government offices as their presence in such government departments is dangerous to the country.

"It may be recalled that before launching the Operation Clean-up in 1992 the army had prepared a list of the terrorists which included all such names but today majority of them are involved in kidnapping for ransom, dacoites and theft but they are holding important portfolios in the government. If the government needs such a list, we can release it to the newspapers.

"PPP's allegation is against the counter and it security as levelling such baseless accusations against any political party is itself a grave crime.

"Firstly there is no training camp of MQM in India nor it can think of it... as far as the matter of repatriating those who are present in India is concerned, neither the MQM has sent any one to India or any other country. However after launching the army operation on June 10, 1992, when kidnapping and murder of workers and leaders became a daily routine, thousands of workers were compelled to go into hiding for their safety. "When the repression crossed all limits and remaining in hiding became impossible, thousands of workers were forced to leave the country and at present almost in all democratic countries MQM workers had been forced to live in exile.

If the government wants to bring them back, it should ensure rule of law, respect for constitution and open the doors of justice to all. [quotation marks as published]

It may be recalled here when PPP present leadership including Benazir Bhutto and hundreds of their workers had crossed over to other countries, a majority of them had taken refuge in India where the PPP had its regular training centres.

"Even a big headquarters of "Al-Zulfikar" was established there from where its leaders used to threaten Pakistan government to enter into Pakistan on India tanks.

All such PPP leaders and workers who had taken refuge in India and got training should be expelled from the PPP ranks and arrested.

"This is on record that PPP's thousands of workers and leaders had been facing charges of murder, attempt to murder, sabotage and anti-state activities and most of them were sentenced to death or for life term. Others were under trial but when PPP in 1988 got power it not only freed all under trial prisoners by one stroke of pen but even those who were convicted to life term and death sentences. Therefore now the PPP out to demand from its government that it should arrest all those convicted and under trial prisoners who were freed in 1988 and they should be tried." [sentence as published]

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